

## Box CE VC Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Box Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by all pupils, staff and visitors in school are very welcome to join in. We value the school's church status and offer a distinctive and inclusive education based upon Christian values where every person is valued, encouraged to respond compassionately to others and helped to achieve their potential.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. The Trust Deed which states that the school was established to teach *'poor-children to read and instructing them in the Knowledge and Practice of the Christian Religion, as professed and taught in the Church of England'*. In addition to daily acts of worship in school, the celebration of special occasions takes place in the Church.

The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

Our aim at Box CE VC Primary School is that collective worship should:

- reflect the school's trust deed
- underpin the Christian values of the school
- be appropriate to the ages, abilities and backgrounds of the pupils
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- celebrate and give thanks for the values, worth and achievements within the school, local and international
- contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others
- offer opportunities to worship God, experience stillness and quiet and respond to Christian language and symbolism
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the church celebrate special occasions in the Churches year such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and the life of the community
- help pupils begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- enable children to explore their own beliefs
- help children develop their own spirituality
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents and other members of the local community
- be regularly monitored and evaluated

## **Planning Collective Worship**

Collective worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum in the way that it is planned, delivered, resourced and evaluated. The content and methodology of assemblies is varied. Twelve Christian values are used as a focus for collective worship on a two year cycle. They have been carefully chosen because they are understood by all members of the school community and are relevant to the lives of even the youngest children. Each value is the focus for a term. Big questions generated by the children are collated and develop into a progression of ideas through the value linking aspects of spirituality - self, others, beauty and beyond (*see Spiritual Development Policy*). The questions asked inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and challenge learners to take responsibility for their own conduct.

Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes and big questions chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The weekly structure of collective worship and the invitation to local church leaders to lead collective worship on a Monday means that the week usually begins with an explicit link to the Bible and a Bible story. In subsequent acts of collective worship the link with the Bible is reinforced through other stories. Church leaders, foundation governors and staff have input into the development of the collective worship programme.

Each term a class plans and leads an act of worship for the whole school and parents linked to the terms value. Prayers/thoughts are written each week by a class on a rota linked to the term's value and the week's big question. Assembly jobs such as the music, song words and chairs are the responsibility of the children.

In Box Primary School, worship is organised in the following way:

- A whole school act of collective worship on a Monday morning led by a local church leader, headteacher or visitor and attended by the whole school
- Key Stage One assembly on Thursday and class assembly on Tuesday
- Key Stage Two assembly on Tuesday and class assembly on Thursday
- Whole school singing assembly on Wednesday
- Whole school family assembly on Friday led by the headteacher or classes

Key Stage assemblies and class assemblies are normally led by class teachers, some TAs and occasionally visitors. We also hold our own Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day and leavers' services in the church as well as celebrating Harvest Festival. Church services always include contributions from children.

### **Monitoring and evaluating collective worship**

Two of our Foundation Governors, Clair Southgate and David Babb, have a role monitoring collective worship at the school. We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process through termly meetings with Clair Southgate and a collective worship questionnaire.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Box Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for collective worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

We hope that all staff will support the Christian ethos of the school but as we are a VC school staff, including the headteacher, have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship. The headteacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in the school.

Because we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils there is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for pupils. Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the religious communities from which pupils come.

Reviewed by Policy and Curriculum Committee March 2020

Christian practices may include the use of:

