



Collective Worship Policy

Issued: March 2014

Date of Review: March 2017

Headteacher: Russell Leigh _____

Our School Vision

Our vision is to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment with opportunities for all children to develop their potential as joyful, confident, proud, healthy and independent individuals with key skills for life.

Introduction

Dorchester, St Birinus CE Primary School is a voluntary controlled Church of England school, having very close links with Dorchester Abbey, serving both the Church and local community.

Dorchester, St Birinus CE Primary School is based on the model of a Christian family, who gather together for daily worship, providing opportunities and experiences to enable children and staff to make personal informed choices about the Christian faith. Christian values are built into the whole ethos and teaching of the school, so that our children can show tolerance, self-discipline, compassion and respect for others around them. This is supported by the active involvement of our local clergy and governors.

Worship

Worship at Dorchester, St Birinus is broadly Christian but is distinct from corporate worship within a Christian faith community. It is provided on a daily basis either meeting together in the hall, in the classrooms or as a whole school in Dorchester Abbey.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the act of collective worship. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right may do so in consultation with the Headteacher for other arrangements to be made.

Philosophy

Worship at Dorchester, St Birinus is built on the belief that as a school we need to:

- be concerned with the worship of God
- provide an atmosphere and opportunity for pupils to explore their inner feelings
- reflect some of the essential features within the Christian tradition such as prayer and worship
- invite participation and foster a sense of community and belonging.

Aims

- To celebrate together

- in stillness and quiet
- with music and noise
- with drama and dance
- To highlight the relevance and importance of the Bible in the 21st Century
- To encourage a respect and tolerance of others' beliefs
- To respect the integrity of all individuals, valuing everyone as a child of God.
- To promote Christian moral values and personal qualities such as thoughtfulness, fairness etc.

School Organisation

In order to fulfil these aims, a variety of acts of worship will be employed:

- Songs and Hymns
- Church worship
- To say Grace at lunchtime
- Whole school worship
- Classroom worship

All these forms of worship may be teacher, pupil, clergy or visitor led.

The material for worship is prepared by the Worship Co-ordinator, who is the Headteacher, and allocated to the clergy or member of staff. Visitors will prepare their own material in line with the theme or their area of interest.

Time Allocation

Fifteen minutes is allocated daily for worship, but because of its nature, it may permeate other aspects of the curriculum.

Collective Worship Timetable

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| Monday | 9:00am | Whole School (following SEAL (Twelve baskets) themes) | Led by Headteacher |
| Tuesday | 9:00am | Hymn Practice | Led by Headteacher or KS2 teacher |
| Wednesday | 9:00am | Whole School (based on worship values) | Led by Headteacher |
| Thursday | 9:00am | Whole school | Led by Clergy |
| Friday | 9:00am | Achievement celebration – rewards for achievement both in and out of school | Led by Headteacher or member of |

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| | | | teaching staff. |
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At the end of Terms 2, 4 and 6 – a service is held in Dorchester Abbey for the whole school and wider community. These services are led by the children and Revd. Canon Sue Booy.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Foundation Governors with the Headteacher will monitor and evaluate the quality and content of collective worship within the school. Pupil evaluation will be carried out by the School Council who will report to the Headteacher.

Each year, the Worship Co-ordinator will report to the governing body with an review of the Collective Worship Action plan (part of the School Development Plan) based on the findings of the monitoring.

Policy Review

This policy should be regularly reviewed with the Headteacher, Foundation Governors and the Pupils and Curriculum Governors committee.