

Clipston Primary School Collective Worship Policy



Worship Policy

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To be reviewed – Spring 2018

Signed
Mrs Dewinder Birk, Chair of Curriculum Committee

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

Clipston Endowed VC Primary School aims to provide every child with high quality teaching and learning. It is the school's philosophy to give our pupils a measure of independence, a high level of self-confidence, a deep sense of self-worth, and an understanding and deeper appreciation of our Christian heritage. To achieve this, we aim to:

- a) Enable all children to achieve their full potential, both academically, socially, personally, and morally in order that children expect the best of themselves.
- b) Promote spiritual development and the ability to grow and flourish as human beings.
- c) Support children in building relationships which reflect Christian values.
- d) Deliver a broad, relevant and challenging education which is of a high standard and appropriate to an individual child's needs.
- e) Promote high standards of behaviour based on mutual trust and respect, developing responsibility and fostering self-discipline.
- f) Promote good citizenship, thus enabling individuals to make valuable contributions to wider society.
- g) Ensure equal opportunities for all.
- h) Provide a welcoming and stimulating learning environment in which everyone feels safe, happy and secure.
- i) Develop a sense of pride in belonging to Clipston Endowed VC Primary School.

To achieve these aims staff and governors will work in partnership with parents, carers and the local community for the benefit of all our pupils.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

1. Statutory Requirements

Schools are required by the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA) to provide Religious Education for all pupils aged 5-18.

The New National Curriculum 2014 states:

Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils. The national curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum.
- All state schools are also required to make provision for a daily act of collective worship and must teach religious education to pupils at every key stage and sex and relationship education to pupils in secondary education.

2. AIMS OF WORSHIP AT CLIPSTON SCHOOL

As Clipston is a Voluntary Controlled Endowed School, Collective Worship (CW) must be in accordance with its Church of England (Anglican) foundation. This will provide the ethos of the daily acts of worship shared by the staff and children (and visitors who are invited to lead assemblies). At our school Collective Worship is known as Assembly.

2.1 The school believes that collective worship is a period of quality time during which children will gain and learn from a meaningful act of worship.

2.2 At Clipston School we recognise the importance of the terms “collective” and “worship”.

“Collective” – acknowledges the individual and the fact that pupils in school come from a variety of backgrounds and do not necessarily share the same religious commitment or indeed any at all.

“Worship” – We promote the Christian belief that Jesus is the Son of God whilst recognising that as a school we share a variety of religious commitments including none. The basis of worship at Clipston School is distinctly Anglican. In our acts of worship we aim to encourage the children to reflect on something of worth each day. This we do through music, hymns, words/scriptures, rituals, stillness, and reflection/prayer.

“Collective Worship” is set in educational context. As a Church of England school the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God is affirmed. We recognise that children are exploring their own beliefs and thus we endeavour to provide a forum which respects the integrity of all present (both staff and children alike) so that all may feel comfortable and can be encouraged to participate as appropriate.

The aims of Collective Worship are:-

- a) To recognise the Christian God and to reflect the Anglican traditions, but also to respect the traditions of others and the value they bring to the world in which we live.
- b) To further a sense of fellowship by bringing the pupils together to celebrate the shared values of the school and the community.
- c) To create an atmosphere where those who wish to worship may do so.
- d) To foster a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the world.
- e) To allow reflection on the fundamental questions of life common to all human beings.
- f) To provide an opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and sharing of emotions such as love, joy, friendship, acceptance, fear, sadness, being sorry, forgiveness, gratitude and reverence.
- g) To foster a concern for the needs of other people.
- h) To provide a time for sharing successes and failures in personal, school and community life.
- i) To provide the experience of being part of a caring, Christian community as a firm basis for preparation for life in modern Britain.
- j) To recognise their own worth and potential.

- k) To ensure, as far as possible, that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the pupils.

3. OUR CHRISTIAN VIRTUES

The Christian Virtues we value in our school stem from the principle that Every Child Matters To God. The educational context of collective worship is further reflected in the following principles we endeavour to abide by as a school in order to lead fulfilled and successful lives that benefit society as a whole:

We are all equal in the eyes of God
 We are unique individuals made in the image of God
 God has given us all gift and talents
 We thank God for his love and care
 Be truthful to others and also to yourself
 Do unto others as you would have them done to you
 Our school is a happy and safe place to learn
 Our relationships reflect the love of Jesus
 We are developing responsibility, resilience, and independence
 We are responsible for caring for each other and for God's world
 God is present giving us confidence to persevere, be resilient and have the confidence to try

Our school has seven **Christian Virtues**, one as a theme for each term, plus one, Thankfulness, which is threaded throughout our whole school year as we are continually minded to thank God for the wonderful and rich world in which we live.

Christian Virtue	Bible Quote	
Thankfulness	Give thanks to The Lord, for He is good	Chronicles 16:34
Kindness	Be kind to one another	Ephesians 4:32
Justice	So then, let us do good to everyone	Galatians 6:18
Love	Love one another as I have loved you	John 15:12
Forgiveness	Forgive as you have been forgiven	Matthew 6: 14-15
Responsibility	Do to others as you would have them do to you	Luke 6:31
Courage	Be strong and courageous, for The Lord will be with you wherever you go	Joshua 1:9

At Clipston School we promote our Christian Virtues through the following concepts and attitudes:

Compassion	Self-Sacrifice	Trust	Forgiveness
Conviction	Humility	Mercy	Self Knowledge
Corporate Responsibility	Tolerance	Perseverance	Self Reliance
Co-operation	Honesty	Consideration	Respect
Integrity			Concern
Individual Responsibility			

4. THE ORGANISATION OF WORSHIP IN SCHOOL

We believe that school assemblies should be based on educational principles which aid the spiritual development of the individual. Therefore, the form and content of worship must be educational. The assembly should be meaningful, thoughtful, stimulating and uplifting.

- 4.1 To this end, at Clipston School we hold a daily act of broadly Christian worship with:
- a) Whole School Assemblies on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday,
 - b) and Class Assembly on Monday.
 - c.) The whole school assemblies are planned to encompass our Christian Virtues, to reflect The Church Year (e.g. Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost) and other key times (e.g. Remembrance Day, Fair Trade Week and Christian Aid week) as well as topical issues that arise.
 - d.) Acts of Worship in school usually follow a set scaffold with the greeting: "May the Lord be with you" and response: "And also with you" during the lighting of the candle, which reminds us of the light that Jesus brings into our world. The Lord's Prayer is used, together with appropriate Bible readings and quotes. At the end of worship the member of Staff leading the assembly (or a child) will say "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord" to which the children respond to reflect the Trinity: "In the name of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen" and the candle is extinguished.
 - e.) The Rector regularly leads assemblies and as part of our policy of broadening our children's horizons, representatives of other local churches in the area are invited to lead our assemblies as well as representatives of the wider community (e.g. Children United, Guide Dogs for the Blind).
 - f.) Acts of worship also take place in All Saints' Church, Clipston, at times of major festivals in the Christian year. Children take an active part in leading these events and at least once a year each class leads Family Assembly in the School Hall.

5. THE CONTRIBUTION OF WORSHIP TO THE WHOLE SCHOOL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

At Clipston School we aim:

- a.) to help children understand the place that Jesus has in the hearts of those with a Christian faith.
 - b.) to help children understand more of the world about them.
 - b.) to help children make value judgements on important issues.
 - c.) to prepare children for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.
- 5.1 The school aims to enable the children to prepare for adult life by broadening their horizons, by meeting new people and by continuously widening the range of their experience and achievement. The school provides them with a structure in which each child can learn to face and cope with the demands of school life, within the context of a distinctly Christian ethos.

- 5.2 Many facets of these aims are met through broadly Christian collective worship. There the children are given opportunities to examine what is of worth in their daily lives.
- 5.3 Worship is also used to sustain the natural curiosity of the children. It can surprise them, comfort them, challenge them and inspire them. It can help them to understand something of their place in the world regardless of their own religious beliefs.

6. THE CONTRIBUTION OF WORSHIP TO THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

- 6.1 The National Curriculum 2014 states that schools should provide “a balanced and broadly based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils”. At Clipston School we consciously strive to achieve a positive caring ethos.

Our Ethos Statement:

“Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian Virtues through the experience it offers to all its pupils”.

- 6.2 We feel these ideals support the spiritual and moral development of children:

- a) **Spiritual development** the ability to develop and flourish as a human being.....

the development of the non-material element of a human being which animates and sustains us and depending on our point of view either ends or continues in some form when we die. It is about the development of a sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning, and purpose. It is about the development of a pupil's 'spirit'. Some people may call it the development of a pupil's 'soul'; others as the development of 'personality' or 'character'.

- b.) **Moral development** the personal recognition of right and wrong.....

the building of a framework of moral values for pupils that regulates their personal behaviour. It is also about the development of pupils' understanding of society's shared and agreed values. It is about understanding that there are contentious issues where there is disagreement and it is also about understanding that society's values change. Moral development is about gaining an understanding of the range of views and the reasons for the range. It is also about developing an opinion about the different views.

7. WITHDRAWAL FROM WORSHIP

Staff have a right to withdraw from collective worship.

All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship unless the parent.....requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from the attendance at religious worship in the school.

Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship should they wish to do so but must first contact the Headteacher.