

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

MOTTRAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Organisation, Content & Structure

The whole school including members of staff meet together in the hall each morning except Wednesday when the class teachers conduct worship in their own rooms. Worship usually lasts approximately 15 minutes, but may vary. Various people assist the Headteacher in conducting whole school worship. Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and may lead collective worship. Clergy of the parish, together with the Open the Book team frequently lead collective worship. On major festivals (e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter), collective worship is held in the local church. If children are to be withdrawn from collective worship alternative activities would be provided. To date no children are withdrawn from worship.

Generally, there is an act of collective worship each morning at 9.15 a.m., led by various members of staff.

In addition to these, children and staff will take part in prayers as part of their class routine and this may include prayers before mealtimes and at the end of the school day, or whenever opportunities present themselves.

Content

It is the responsibility of the leader of each act of collective worship to plan for and to include a variety of approaches within the clearly stated theme for the week. This may involve liaison with the music or worship co-ordinator, where necessary.

The content of the worship can include use of stories, poems, drama, songs, visual aids, prayers, moments of reflective silence, focal points, interactive activities for the children, and consideration of work undertaken in the school curriculum. A collection of resources is available in school.

It should be noted that an 'assembly' is not an 'act of collective worship' but a gathering of the school for other purposes, e.g. notices, behaviour chats. Collective worship should be celebrated before any such notices.

Each act of collective worship may include more than one of the following elements:

- celebration of the major festivals of Christianity and an awareness of other faiths
- presentation of Bible stories
- topical matters from the news or the locality
- using literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching
- appreciation of the natural world and human activity
- appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others
- visitors

- prayer in different forms - formal, children's own, silence and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others and quiet reflection
- use of music (including recorded music, singing and instrumental playing by members of the school), drama etc
- use of appropriate artefacts and focal points (candle, cross, flowers etc.)
- participation by the children
- using responses, hymns and psalms as a focus for short acts of worship

(Adapted from the Carlisle Diocesan Collective Worship Guidelines)

Resources

The school budget includes a sum to be used annually for resourcing collective worship. Visual aids (artefacts, posters and books) are purchased regularly and stored centrally.

Planning and Record Keeping

A system of planning and recording is in place. This follows the "Simply Collective Worship" scheme of work. The worship co-ordinator is available to assist with planning should a member of staff request this.