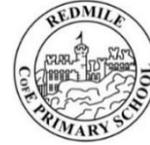


Redmile Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT



“Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.”

(Proverbs 22:6)

We Encourage Learning and Caring because Our school Matters to Everyone.

We are dedicated to serving the community by providing our children with life skills to flourish in a diverse society. Every individual is valued and celebrated. Faith, spirituality, Christian and British values guide us through our journey at Redmile.

Redmile: where learning is for life. At our school, we maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone (adults and children); it should be fun and interactive. We believe that all children should be challenged and encouraged to maximise their own potential and have their achievements celebrated.

We promote a Christian ethos. We teach our children to behave in God’s image and to seek inspiration from Him so that school is a highly positive experience for everyone. We respect that not all children will believe in God, however, we teach all children that Christian and British Values are the foundations of an inclusive school.

Ethos Statement

Recognising our historical foundation, Redmile Church of England Primary School will preserve and develop our religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with our local churches at parish and diocesan level.

We aim to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of religious belief and practice. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian and British values through the experiences we offer to all our pupils.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our school.

At Redmile CE Primary School we believe that collective worship plays a central role in our school's life. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. Our motto is ‘Learning together, having fun’ and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for achieving this.

Collective worship takes place in a supportive, inclusive environment which recognises, and seeks to develop, the personal worth of each person. It does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment or affiliation, and the different experiences, beliefs and starting points of individuals are recognised and valued. Individual integrity is always cherished. We believe that our children should develop a love of learning and show care and respect for each other within the context of a happy, secure and challenging learning environment.

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We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

Collective Worship will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain. Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement; it is an integral part of school life and central to school community.

Aims and objectives

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- to explore their own beliefs.
- to encourage participation and response.
- to develop a sense of belonging and community spirit.
- to develop a common ethos of shared values.
- to reinforce positive attitudes.
- to participate fully in worship.
- to celebrate life and living.
- to grow in liturgical understanding and development.
- to provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears.
- to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them.
- to develop an awareness of and concern for the needs of others as well as personal needs.
- to provide time to share with others the things we have been doing, our thoughts and ideas.
- to develop shared values, for example: honesty, respect, tolerance, self-discipline, forgiveness and fairness.
- to broaden awareness of ourselves, others and the world in which we live.
- to celebrate the achievements of pupils and others.
- to become reflective, deep thinking individuals in a busy and complex society.
- to deepen understanding of our own culture and that of others, recognising that cultural diversity is enriching not threatening.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. Collective worship will link to the 'Understanding Christianity Project' where possible to secure children's learning.

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In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church, although not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and may make reference to the beliefs or non-beliefs of others. We may say, for example, 'Those of us who are Christian believe...' 'If you'd like to make this prayer your own, then please join in with DEAR LORD and AMEN.'

Organisation of collective worship

We hold daily acts of collective worship in our school. This includes a daily assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly. We present to children the Trinity box which holds the bible (this represents God the father), a cross (representing God the Son) and a candle (the Holy Spirit). It also holds the bible quote for the week. Posters are displayed on the Collective worship board to show the aims of the week, the weekly Christian value and a bible quotation linked to the theme.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way, creating a spiritual experience that otherwise some children may not be exposed to in their daily lives. We view assembly time as a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect everyone to behave in an appropriate way. We ask that everyone is quiet and thoughtful and listens carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. Everyone is expected to enter and exit the room in a calm, respectful manner.

Children are aware of the difference between reflection and prayer. Regardless of children's beliefs they remain respectful and contemplative. Children are expected to put their hands together and close their eyes during the prayer.

Pupils are invited out to say spontaneous prayers during assemblies and are also encouraged to write prayers, either in lessons or voluntarily at home, which may be read out by them or the adult in charge if they prefer. Prayers are also said before lunch and at the end of the day. Pupils learn and say together from memory our School Prayer, The Lord's Prayer, Lunchtime Prayer and Home time prayer.

The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups such as 'Open the Book' conduct them instead. Pupils are also invited to lead assemblies, based on the theme for the week and a timetable is set up at the beginning of each term whereby pupils may volunteer by signing up. Each month, classes also present their learning to parents and friends of the school in their class/whole school thematic assembly.

We use the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education plans and thematic units for collective worship which are based on the traditions of the Christian faith – this includes reflection of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. ICT links are made and suggested resources are clearly identified.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to
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acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. We celebrate the successes of all children in assemblies, as well as acknowledging their birthday (including staff).

We welcome parents, friends within the community and governors at our Special Assembly, held every Friday in school; we worship through song, prayer and quiet reflection, as well as celebrating learning and achievements of individuals and teams. In our Special Assembly, The Merlin Award is presented to a child who frequently demonstrate behaviour linked to the associated Christian value of the week. We also hold family services in church, e.g. Harvest, Christmas and Easter take place in church and are led by a member of the Belvoir Vale Ministry and Head teacher

A period of quiet reflection is included in all assemblies; a candle is usually lit which children hold and the lights are dimmed.

Year 6 pupils have an active role in helping to organise assembly: we have a Collective Worship file which pupils update and monitor, a prayer board which they have devised, music for reflection monitors (chose music and work the CD player!), hymn book monitors, furniture monitors (Collective Worship table with colours reflecting the liturgical calendar and chairs/benches positioned to represent togetherness).

Each Classroom has a Reflection area, whereby Collective Worship is reinforced and provides opportunities for children to extend their prayer and thought processes.

The Collective Worship coordinator manages the timetables and planning at the beginning of each term, ensuring staff and assembly leaders have copies of the required planning to ensure breadth, balance, continuity and coverage and to ensure each assembly is different in content but based on the theme for the week. The coordinator also liaises with Year 6 and maintains the Collective Worship display board in the hall. The Collective Worship monitors also evaluate weekly assemblies taking into account the thoughts and feelings of those in attendance.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that all children are treated equally, regardless of academic ability, disability, age, race, gender, religious belief, home language, socio-economic background or sexual orientation. We are an inclusive school and offer collective worship to all children respecting individual needs. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils including those with special educational needs, disabilities, more able and talented and those learning English as an additional language. The school acts at all times in line with policies for SEND and Inclusion.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children and staff to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. Staff may declare upon induction that they wish to withdraw from RE and Collective Worship, although when we recruit there is clear reference to Redmile as a Church of England Primary School in the advert and job description; the interview questions also refer to Christian Distinctiveness.

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The head teacher keeps a record of all children and staff who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The link governor liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on Religious Education and Collective Worship and supports the school with readiness for SIAMS.

J Hopkins and N Copeland Spring 2019

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