

Isham CEVA Primary School
Collective Worship Policy.

“Worship is an expression of a relationship with God, and a desire to love and serve God and others.” C. Herbert.

Rational

Collective Worship at Isham CEVA Primary School takes place daily, in accordance with the Schools Standard and Framework Act 1998. The content of all our acts of worship is in accordance with the Trust Deeds of this Church of England School. This policy has been formulated by the head teacher, in close consultation with the staff, the Incumbent and other governors. The policy is also based on advice received by The Diocesan Adviser for Religious Education.

Aims

- To enable pupils to explore a variety of forms of worship so that those with a religious commitment may deepen their experience of worship and those uncommitted may feel for themselves something of what it means for others to worship.
- To provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- To heighten pupils’ awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and of the beliefs held and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions.
- To promote children’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To develop and celebrate a sense of community.
- To share and celebrate the gifts and talents of the pupils.
- To help children develop respect and understanding both of the nature and language of Christian worship.
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.

Practicalities of Organisation

Collective Worship takes place within our Assemblies. These are at 9.10 am on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays when we gather as a whole school- pupils and staff. On Wednesdays the whole school meets at 3pm and on Friday the whole schools gathers again either at 9am or at 3.00pm. Worship usually lasts 20 minutes.

Various visitors (the Bishops Visitor / leaders from Charities), including the Incumbent who visits fortnightly, assist the head teacher in leading worship. Alternate Wednesday Worship is lead by the local vicar and on Thursdays we hold Musical Worship where children are encouraged to learn the words and understand the meaning of new songs and prayers. On regular occasions, our assemblies will be lead by each class in turn and parents will be invited to attend.

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At Harvest, Christmas and Easter Worship is held in St. Peter's Church, Isham. Parents are invited to attend all our Church celebrations.

Content and Approach.

Our Acts of Worship are times for considering concepts, values and attitudes explicit in Christian belief. These may include:

love, honesty, trust, hope, peace, compassion, justice, perseverance, faith, thankfulness and forgiveness.

They are presented and explored in different ways and in Collective Worship we may explore:

major Christian festivals, Bible stories, topical matters from the news or the locality, literature with explicit or implicit religious teaching, appreciation of the natural world and human activity, the achievements of others (including people well known for their "faith in action", ourselves and others known to us.)

At the start of each term, a programme of Assembly and Worship is planned by the head teacher. This is shared with the Incumbent of St Peter's and with the Bishops' Visitor.

Our Collective Worship includes singing and prayer. There will also be time for thinking, reflecting and sharing.

A table is set with a focus which pupils learn to recognise and respect: the cloth (in liturgical colour) and the bible. Music is played as the children enter and leave in order to create the right atmosphere.

Whenever appropriate, children will take an active role. Please also refer to our Assembly Themes documentation.

Resources

Collective Worship resources are housed in the Head's office. They include books of stories, prayers and songs. A budget is allocated to the development of our resources and is the responsibility of the head teacher.

Evaluation and Review

The head teacher, RE coordinator and governors will review this policy every two years. The Governing Body has responsibility for overseeing the implementation of this policy and for ensuring the annual review. There is a named Governor for RE & Worship who regularly reports on Worship to the GB.

Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This is also stated in our School prospectus. Any parent wishing to do so should inform the head teacher, who will ensure that appropriate supervision is arranged.