

RUSHBURY C.E. (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Collective worship at Rushbury aims to:

- provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Definition of Worship

Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer, thanksgiving and adoration to God. It is Christians' loving responses, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into a relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. (Taken from the Hereford Diocesan Board of Education – Guidelines for Collective Worship in Church Schools). As a church school, our act of worship will aim to be in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England i.e. reliably Christian.

Aims of Collective Worship

To be a special time with a distinctly spiritual atmosphere that is conducive to worship and an awareness of God's presence.

To provide opportunity, time and encouragement for reflection.

To provide the opportunity to reflect upon, and celebrate, the values and worth of the school community.

To learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching and festivals. To explore how others worship God and why.

Assembly and Collective Worship take place as follows:

Monday (weekly) 10.15 – 10.30 a.m. Led by the Mr Morris (headteacher) or a member of the teaching team

Tuesday (monthly) 9 – 9.30 a.m. Led by Rev. Lisa Harper linked to value for the month

Friday 14.40 – 14.50 KS2 pupil presentation assembly

14.50 – 15.10 p.m. Celebration Assembly led by Mr Morris (headteacher) or a member of the teaching team.

For the most part, acts of collective worship take place in the Hall but, on occasions, they may be held in St. Peter's Church, one of the other parish churches or outside.

Special Services

Special Services are held at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. These are usually held in St. Peter's Church, Rushbury and parents, carers and members of the local community are invited. For the Harvest service, children are joined by the local community to walk across the fields to St Edith's at Eaton. At Easter we visit St James's Church Cardington, for our Easter service. These services are an expression of the development of well-established and functioning links with the Apedale Parishes.

A Leavers' Service is held at the end of the summer term, prepared and led by Y6 Leavers in conjunction with the Reverend. Lisa Harper and the headteacher. After all services, the congregation is invited back to the school for refreshments.

Pupils often take part in special community Sunday services such as Mothering Sunday and Christmas. In addition, several children attend Messy Church.

Creating an atmosphere for worship

We light a candle to represent 'Jesus Light of the World'. This is the focal point of collective worship. The candle is kept on a special prayer table made for the school in the mid-twentieth century. A cloth is placed over the table, the colour of which reflects the time of year in the Christian calendar. A large wooden cross is also placed on the worship table. This prompts pupils to say their own prayer when they are in the hall. Other artefacts are placed on or near this table if they are relevant to the theme or will aid quiet thought.

Music is used to encourage an atmosphere of calm and reflection before collective worship and to maintain that atmosphere as pupils leave. Pupils and staff choose the music of the week and are asked to say something about the music chosen.

Each classroom has a reflection space. Each space has its own meaning to the pupils in that class. It is a quiet place for prayers and reflection. In addition, pupils regularly write prayers. Each week, the school administrator chooses one prayer from a pupil to put on the weekly newsletter and one pupil will choose a prayer to share at celebration assembly.

Outside, the school has a story-telling chair. This is also a memorial to a former Rushbury School pupil. The pupils know that this chair is also a special, quiet place for reflection and prayer.

Hymns and songs

Words are displayed to allow a wider range of hymns and songs to be used. The main hymns and songs are chosen from 'Out of The Ark'.

Planning

The school has adopted 'Christian Values for Schools'. The scheme explores one value per month. There are fifteen values. This gives lots of opportunity for the children to reflect on the 'value', follow up assemblies with class-based activities, bring ideas from home, and consolidate their learning.

Themes are discussed at staff meetings so that all teaching staff are involved. Resource books for assemblies are kept in the hall. The monthly theme allows time to celebrate special days and events throughout the year.

At the beginning of each academic year, Key Stage 2 pupils are asked to plan and lead a whole school assembly on a specific theme.

Collective worship records

Each 'value' is displayed on a fish that is attached to a display board. The value of the month is displayed in the centre of the cross at the front of this boat. This is on the wall at the front of the school hall, then kept for referral throughout the year.

Right of withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Any parent who wishes to do this should contact the headteacher.

