



RYECROFT C. E. MIDDLE SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Part of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust



The Vision of the Staff, Pupils and Governors of Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

Ryecroft CE Middle School aims to enable every pupil to achieve their God-given academic and personal potential, so they can make a positive impact in the world.

We seek to be a community built on knowing God's love. Our values underpin all we do; we welcome all into our loving, happy and safe school.

Loving and Learning Together
'Love each other as I have loved you' (John 13, v34-35)

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OUR MISSION

Our school will:

Encourage all children, irrespective of background or ability, to flourish and achieve their God given potential in a safe and loving school.

Provide a range of social, emotional, physical and spiritual experiences to enrich the lives of children beyond the classroom so they develop into mature and responsible adults and experience life in all its fullness.

Work with Church, local and global communities, to find opportunities to work together, serve one another and support those in need.

Nurture an inclusive community where all people are valued, respected and feel safe.

Promote religious literacy and a deep understanding of Christianity and other faiths and world views through dynamic RE teaching.

Promote the spiritual development of children and adults in our Christian community through meaningful collective worship.

Empower children and adults to develop trust, resilience and perseverance so that they are able to face the challenges of the world. We will foster respect for all, embracing difference and diversity and teaching all to live well together in an inclusive, welcoming community, supporting each other to remove or cross barriers and live with dignity and respect.

Care deeply about our pupils' and staff wellbeing and mental health, appreciating that it is the genuine quality of relationships that matter. We strive to support each other to flourish, achieving happiness and fulfilment.

Collaborate with our local church community and St Michael's church to share the teachings of Jesus through inspirational collective worship. We will develop, deliver and evaluate opportunities for pupils and adults to express spirituality through varied worship experiences.

The contribution of collective worship in Ryecroft Church of England Middle School:

- Collective worship is central to the life of Ryecroft CE Middle School.
- It offers an opportunity for the whole school community to explore together the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our Anglican foundations and Christian character.
- It allows those present to experience and participate in living expressions of Christian worship that are God centered, affirm Christian beliefs and yet remain inclusive and educational.
- Together we celebrate our Christian values, vision and ethos and reflect upon their contribution to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of participants.
- Worship is inclusive, rooted in the Christian faith, but accessible to all members of our school community.

- It values and honours every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.
- The Governing Body in conjunction with the Headteacher, staff, and school community have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

As a Church of England school our aims for collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship;
- to enhance the Christian character of the school.

At Ryecroft CE Middle School, 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.

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. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enable children and staff to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition;
- lead the school community to the 'threshold of worship' in order for them to make an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship;
- use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth;

- provide opportunities for the whole school community to address God directly through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit through acknowledging his presence, reflecting upon his character and giving Him praise and honour;
- use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship;
- encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ through worship;
- raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith;
- reaffirm, strengthen and practice key Christian values. (e.g. love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, self-giving) and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God;
- nurture and encourage respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally;
- seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, being uplifted, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect, and reverence;
- develop a sense of community within the school, the locality, (e.g. local church) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions;
- foster a concern for the needs of others.

Collective Worship is distinctively Christian, but we recognise the importance of times of assembly which allow the school community to:

- recognise and celebrate the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth
- reinforce school expectations, behaviour strategies, school routines
- share school and community information

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Foundation Governors, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community have responsibility to ensure that the daily act of collective worship is consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and the trust deeds of the school.

The Headteacher has responsibility for managing collective worship on a day-to-day basis, ensuring compliance with all legal requirements.

The programme for Collective Worship is designed by Foundation Governors, Reverend Liz Jones, the Headteacher and the Lead for Worship. Together they plan a programme for Collective Worship

that ensures continuity, variety and a clear focus on Christian beliefs, teaching and festivals, and the way that these link with the values and life of the school. Each half term we explore one of our school Christian values.

Leaders ensure worship is relevant, creative, cohesive and will enrich the spiritual journey of participants.

Records of plans and content are kept centrally, on the school computer system. It is the responsibility of the Lead for Worship to ensure that these are kept updated.

Pupils are encouraged and enabled to be involved in planning and leading acts of worship and have frequent opportunities to do so, particularly those who choose to join GLOW (God Loves Our Worship), in addition to House Assemblies, which are led by members of each form every half term. Pupils are encouraged to take a leading role in Form Worship.

Additionally, pupils are invited to share opinions and suggestions on the further development of the school's Christian Character through pupil voice.

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship is an on-going process that involves input from staff, pupils, parents and governors, and takes place termly. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure on-going relevance and improvement. Outcomes of monitoring will be reported back to full Governors' meetings. At present monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of Collective Worship is carried out through class evaluations, pupil surveys and discussions led by a group of pupils.

The lead for Worship also has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate. A dedicated budget ensures that the worship programme can be carried out effectively.

The lead for Worship keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Development Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

All church schools, whether they are Voluntary Aided (VA), Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Foundation (F) will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS Framework). The core question of this strand is, the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision. At Ryecroft CE Middle School this inspection will evaluate the school's collective worship on the following to ensure that it:

- is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.

- helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The Headteacher and Lead for Worship are aware of the requirements of the section 48 (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections with regard to worship, and will ensure that the school is striving to ensure that worship at this school develops and aspires to best practice as articulated in inspection criteria.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- We work closely with Rev. Liz to build stronger links with our Parish Community through our Parish Church, St Michael's and by working collaboratively with other schools in our Multi Academy Trust. Rev. Liz comes into school regularly to deliver worship. Jordan Lambert (combined churches youth leader) leads worship and works with GLOW to help them to deliver worship and to develop this further so that they are able to lead worship in our feeder schools too.
- Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders opinions are sought. A Christian Distinctiveness section on our school development plan is written and revised to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAWAL

We recognise the legal right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

Approved by Governors

Date: