

Introduction ~ Mission Statement

Darrington CE Primary School is a Church of England School and aims to put the spiritual development of all stakeholders at the heart of everything that we do. We strive to provide an environment where each individual grows in the love of God and each other. By sharing friendship, peace and showing respect for each other, we look to develop and explore our Christian faith. We foster skills such as co-operation, tolerance and understanding of others and respect for differences.

We can reassure parents that our school exerts no pressure on pupils to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity that would compromise their own family faith. The social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of all our pupils whatever their background is of prime concern to us. We believe that collective worship contributes to the development of all these areas. Christian values are central to the ethos of our school and as such are reflected in the main themes on which our collective worship is based. As we are part of The Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, we follow the Wakefield Agreed Syllabus for RE. A knowledge of and respect for other world faiths is included in this.

Legal Requirements (1988 Education Act)

There must be a daily act of collective worship for every pupil either as a whole school, class or group. We recognise that parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship.

At Darrington CE School we aim to:

- Offer the whole school community the opportunity to participate in worship, providing the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- Ensure that worship in schools is a 'collective' not a 'corporate' act as there may be many different beliefs amongst the pupils and their families
- Provide worship which celebrates difference and diversity and promotes respect and understanding of those with different beliefs and religious practices
- Ensure that worship is appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of all pupils so that they can all take part
- Seek to widen and enhance the experiences of those of faith, no faith and the curious and to allow them to make their own response
- Ensure that worship is not intended to be a passive act
- Embed Christian values of forgiveness, friendship, hope, perseverance, respect and thankfulness through the school life and daily worship

The nature of Collective Worship at our school

- Worship is of **vital importance** in the life of the school and is a **fundamental** aspect of its **Christian character**. It is an opportunity for the whole school to join together.
- They take place on a daily basis and are led by staff, clergy, pupils and invited guests. They are a focal point of school life when we meet together to share times to praise God, to celebrate achievements, to show how we can serve and care for each other and our environment, to reflect on and learn from our experiences.
- It is a **distinctive time** within a busy day to 'take time out' to praise, share, pray, reflect and wonder about things. School worship is a mix of happy, quiet, still, calm, or lively sessions which help to bind the **school community** together.
- Everyone is made to feel comfortable and a valued part of collective worship and have a choice in the way they **respond** to prayer.
- Throughout the year, we also have classes leading worship and attend church for a range of services led by school staff, governors, pupils and our Vicar. Family and friends are encouraged to join us.
- Themes are varied and may follow the school's cycle of collective worship, the Christian calendar, worldwide and national events and festivals from other faiths. We also consider values which are shared by **different** faiths. To be able to **empathise with others** when **values, beliefs and lifestyles** are different to your own is an important learning and reflective process.

Collective worship is planned and takes into account:

- The three year cycle of interlinked themes, which compliments the elements of the religious education being taught in each year group via the Wakefield Agreed Syllabus for RE.
- The Church's season and planned services in Church.
- Christian Values and SEAL themes. SEAL encourages children to develop: self awareness, manage feelings, motivation, empathy and social skills.
- Opportunities for pupils to lead collective worship. Each term classes have the opportunity to lead and deliver whole school collective worship. The theme is left to the discretion of the staff and pupils and may be based on the current Christian Value, RE theme, global, national and local events or linked with the overall half termly topic.
- Opportunities for pupils to be praised and praise the achievements of others. A celebration assembly takes place on a Friday, which parents and friends are invited to take part in. This helps pupils to consider and celebrate their place in the community, recognise their own worth and that of others.

Sharing with stakeholders

Staff and pupils are involved in the planning of collective worship and the half termly overview is displayed on staff and parent/ carer notice boards. Parents and governors are informed of the half termly Christian value through newsletters and the website. Parents, families and governors are encouraged to join for collective worship and services in church.

The delivery of collective worship

- Collective worship takes place each morning. We have high expectations of good behaviour. The usual format of worship is to enter to music with the current Christian Value displayed with pictures to prompt thinking. This 'quiet space' is an important aspect of preparing for worship. Pupils sing a song of praise, listen to or take part in a story or play, leaders may make reference to the Bible; there will be a period of reflection followed by a prayer.
- We believe it is very important to phrase statements carefully, bearing in mind that we are taking part in collective rather than corporate worship. Leaders are encouraged to say "Christians believe" or "I believe" rather than "we all believe".
- The prayer tree is often discussed leading up to prayer time to remind children of possible ways to start a prayer such as thank you, please, sorry.
- A candle is lit to acknowledge that this is a time of worship. Pupils are aware that the candle is used as a symbol of God's love surrounding us at this special time. Pupils are asked to get ready for a time of prayer by stilling themselves as others around may wish to use the quiet time to say their own prayers and we encourage all pupils to be respectful of this. Leaders may say a prayer and pupils are invited to join in with "Amen" if they agree with the prayer. We may also say The Lord's Prayer.
- The foundation governor is involved in the planning and delivery of collective worship. The vicar leads collective worship every Tuesday morning.

The Darrington Collective Worship Committee (DCWC) play an important part in the life of the school. The pupils express an interest and are then members are selected, representing each year group. Members play an active role and our foundation governor regularly meets with members, exploring a range of themes; planning and leading collective worship or church services, fundraising events, representing our school at the Feast and Fayre and communicating with our link school in Buhemba Primary School in Mara, Tanzania.

Role of DCWC

- Assist the collective worship coordinator (Headteacher) in creating the themes and rota
- Suggest different styles and opportunities for worship
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of collective worship
- Be responsible for setting up the acts of worship
- Meet with the headteacher and foundation governor to make positive suggestions for the development of collective worship in the school

Resources

These are available in the hall ~

Laptop linked to the school network and projector with linked sound system.

CD player & CDs

Candles

The Golden Book (Award Book)

Prayer tree

Other staff resources are available in the hall cupboard or headteacher's office

Monitoring and evaluation

Staff play a part in this process by ~

- Conducting pupil questionnaires after significant events of Collective Worship
- Completing the Collective Worship evaluation log
- Checking that the practice matches our school mission statement and aims
- Classroom feedback from pupils
- Noting comments from parents and visitors about the quality of worship
- Monitoring pupils attitudes and behaviour throughout school and to each other

Our Collective Worship Committee has been appointed to review and share opinions and ideas of Collective Worship and how this has an impact on all learners. Our Foundation Governor alongside the RE subject leader organise and lead the committee.

Equal opportunities All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. It is therefore important that we use materials that are suitable for the full range of ages, abilities and interests of our pupils. Our worship is about sharing common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. We affirm the Christian view that God loves all people equally and a knowledge of and respect for other world faiths are encouraged.

Attendance and right of withdrawal Parents/guardians have the legal right to withdraw their child from religious education and collective worship, provided they give written notification to the Headteacher so that alternative supervision arrangements can be made. Teachers may exercise their right to withdraw from leading or attending acts of collective worship but attending 'assemblies' is part of a teacher's contractual duty.

Inclusion The policy will be applied to all pupils. We welcome our general responsibilities under the Disability Equality Duty by promoting equal opportunities, eliminating discrimination and improving access to learning for disabled people. In order to comply with the requirements of the DDA 2006 we will make reasonable adjustments to ensure all stakeholders understand and can follow this policy. We will actively seek to remove any barriers to learning and participation that may hinder or exclude individuals or groups of pupils.

Safeguarding statement

Child Protection Through their day-to-day contact with pupils and direct work with families, education staff have a crucial role to play in noticing indicators of possible abuse or neglect. Where it appears to a member of staff that a child may have been abused, the school is required, as part of local child protection procedures, to report their concerns to social services immediately. The Headteacher (and the Deputy Headteacher in her absence) is the designated teacher responsible for child protection. A parent governor is the designated governor responsible for child protection.

Data Protection Act 1998 School collects data in order to meet its statutory responsibilities for the provision of education to children in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and The School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Some of this data will be shared with Wakefield Metropolitan District Council and may be shared with other agencies that are involved in the health and welfare of school children. Please be aware that personal data is also covered by the Data Protection Act 1998 whereby you as an individual may be liable if you disclose personal data inappropriately. Please see the school's Data Protection policy.

Safe recruitment and selection of staff. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All posts are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, therefore all convictions must be declared. Providing false information is an

offence. Appointed staff, governors, regular volunteers and trainees have identity, qualification and criminal records bureau checks and have been successfully cleared to work with children.

Monitoring and review This policy is monitored by the Headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request. It will be reviewed appropriate to new legislation or to the needs of the school.

Signed.....
Headteacher

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Chair of Governors