

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Last review September 2014

Next review September 2017

Signed date

Values Statement

At Deal Parochial Primary School the curriculum is firmly rooted in its Christian foundation: enabling every child to grow spiritually and emotionally; fostering imagination and a deep sense of personal identity and self worth; providing guidance through the loving example of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

Our hope is that each child at Deal Parochial Primary School will develop an appetite for learning that will endure throughout their lives. To achieve this, the curriculum will need to motivate and excite children so that they engage fully in learning, cultivate positive attitudes and relationships, make good progress and fulfill their true potential - being *the best that I can be*.

Statement

Our daily acts of collective worship will reflect the Christian ethos of our Voluntary Aided Church of England School; celebrating all that is good and expressing thankfulness for the joy of being alive. Collective worship will provide a daily opportunity to enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Our aim at Deal Parochial School is for our daily acts of collective worship to contribute to pupils' SMSC development in the following ways:

- providing opportunities to set their learning in a broader context and to reflect on the spiritual dimension of life;
- developing pupils' moral understanding and sensitivity affirming the core Christian values which the school seeks to promote;
- developing a sense of community within the school and a sense of being part of a wider community and the Anglican Church;

- providing opportunities to learn about and be involved in the particular character of the Anglican denomination and some of the ceremonies and traditions associated with it;
- developing pupils' social and cultural understanding and promoting equality, including a respect for and understanding of the values and practices which distinguish their own and others' religious traditions;
- considering the relevance of Christian ideas and beliefs in our own lives;
- practising the attitudes and skills of Christian worship, such as expressing personal beliefs, gratitude, thoughtfulness, wonder, reverence, attentiveness, regret, forgiveness, compassion, responsibility, finding help or support, being challenged;
- celebrating our highest common values, with respect to human rights and capacities, the quality of our relationships, and our sense of responsibility for each other and the environment;
- and above all, seeking to add significance and meaning to the daily lives of pupils by acknowledging the reality of a divine being in the experience of believers.

At Deal Parochial school we will do this by providing:

- a varied collective worship programme (following the Canterbury and Rochester Diocesan Collective worship plans);
- a rolling programme that ensures interest and coverage of a broad spectrum of material built around opportunities to celebrate the Christian calendar and the major Christian festivals;
- the use of local resources where appropriate (staff, children, Clergy, Governors, parents and members of the community);
- regular occasions for the children to share in the production and participation of collective worship;
- opportunities for children to share what is meaningful and significant for them;
- opportunities to participate in different styles of worship (prayer, praise, silence, sense of community, common values, power of the spoken word, ritual and an awareness of the important and a sense of awe and wonder of our beautiful world);
- a variety of approaches to prayer (Children will be encouraged to join in with the prayers. However, they are not obliged to pray, but they will be encouraged to respect the right of those who wish to);
- variety in the form of expression (art, music, drama, story etc.);
- collective worship experiences which are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children;
- an opportunity for each Key Stage to meet together as a group for collective worship once a week;
- class praise and prayer led by the class teacher (this is class-based and may take any form and may include child initiated prayer, the Lord's prayer, saying the school creed, singing a worship song etc.);

Further opportunities for contributing to pupils' SMSC development which may arise either through acts of collective worship or through the school's weekly 'Share and Praise' assembly include:

- celebrating achievement;
- establishing a corporate identity and sense of community;
- affirming commonly held values, including human attributes such as courage and determination;
- responding to needs within the school or wider community;
- exploring aspects of the different cultures in the school and promoting equality and tolerance;
- developing pupils' understanding of community, tolerance, compassion and support;

- practising skills such as speaking and listening, and participation in music, dance and drama.

The spirit of the above documents focuses on the fact that every member of our school should feel equally valued and free from discrimination on grounds of religion.

Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship

The main aim of collective worship at Deal Parochial is for it to be meaningful and relevant to all pupils and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel that they have to remove their child from collective worship as this breaks the unity of the school.

Parents do, however, have the right to withdraw their child without any explanation. As a school we pride ourselves on good communication with parents and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective worship so that misunderstanding and confusion as to its nature can be avoided.