



The National and Legal Framework

With the Education Reform Act of 1988 Circular 1/94 there was a renewed emphasis to ensure provision for daily collective worship for pupils. Under the Act, statutory requirements are made on the school for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. The Act states that worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

Further guidance is set out in the School Standards and Framework Act of 1998 which states;

- Each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship.
- The arrangement for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separated acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.
- The required collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- Not every act of collective worship in a school need comply with the above, provided that, taking any school term as a whole, most such acts which take place in the school do comply.
- Collective worship in schools with a religious character shall be in accordance with the tenants and practices of the religion or religious denomination specified in relation to the school.
- If the parent of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school requests that (s)he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school, the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.

Fundamentally, as a Church School, we must ensure that:

1. There is a daily act of collective worship for all our pupils.
2. Our acts of worship must be in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England, satisfying the Will of John Freeman in 1711 that the children of this school should be 'educated in the Protestant religion, according to the doctrines of the Church of England'. This should be clearly reflected in our aims as a Church School to have a Christian ethos fostering Christian values and beliefs.
3. All our acts of worship have regard for the family background and the ages and aptitudes of our pupils.
4. The time and organisation (i.e. group size) is flexible when circumstances dictate it.
5. Parents have the right to withdraw their children.

The Aims of Collective Worship of Freeman's Endowed C.E. Junior Academy

- To provide the opportunity to worship God, within the rich tradition of Christian prayer and worship.
- To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing all members of our school community together.
- To offer an invitation to all present to explore, share and deepen their level of experience.
- To share together emotions such as love, delight, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, fear, forgiveness and reverence.
- To celebrate in the excitement and beauty of living and life and to provide for moments of wonder and awe, for truth and for facing the harsher realities of life.
- To allow positive reflection on success and failure in an open, honest and sensitive climate.
- To encourage expressions of determination to do one's best.
- To help individuals respond to their own lives in ways significant to them in the community.
- To create an atmosphere and opportunity for silent reflection, repose, inner response, and active participation.

The Purpose of Collective Worship

- To strengthen a sense of belonging and a sharing of values, including School Values and British Values.
- To stimulate spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- To develop an understanding of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.
- To enable the experience of prayer.
- To encourage the value of the Bible and Christian tradition.
- To promote the spirit of openness and wonder.
- To provide an experience of shared worship.
- To prepare for daily experiences, opportunities and responsibilities with the belief that God is involved in every area of life.

Content

Our Acts of Worship should contain elements of the following:

- Consideration of, and response to, the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.
- Knowledge and appreciation of the Bible.
- Praise and Prayer to God.
- Exploration of the symbolism within the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition.
- Respect for people of all faiths, races and cultures as well as for those of no faith.
- Promotion of fundamental British Values.
- Appreciation of music and participation in hymns and songs.
- Responses to things of worth.
- Invitations to participate and observe.
- Recognition of, and response to, the spiritual dimension of human experience.
- Ritual and ceremony, stillness and reflection.

Organisation

Planning our daily Act of Worship will be overseen by the Worship Leader who will;

- Organise a Worship Rota every half-term, which includes all teachers in playing a positive and contributory role in worship planning, preparation and delivery.
- Decide on themes for the daily Act of Worship in consultation with pupils, staff and other contributors.
- Develop opportunities for pupils to participate in leading elements of Worship.
- Liaise with regular visitors, e.g. local clergy, CAT and CSALT teams.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of Worship with input from pupils.
- Feedback to SLT and staff.
- Liaise with the designated Governor regarding Collective Worship.

Our Acts of Worship will take various forms including;

- whole school worship led by the Principal or individual members of staff.
- whole school celebration/awards led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- whole school worship led by the vicar of St. Barnabas Church.
- whole school worship led by a range of invited visitors.
- whole school worship led by classes of children with friends and parents invited into school to celebrate and take part in the occasion.
- whole school gatherings for singing practices to learn the music, words and meanings of songs, with times for reflection and prayer.
- whole school celebrations of Christian Festivals where friends and family are invited to attend.

An atmosphere is set for worship by appropriate planning and layout appropriate for the occasion. Appropriate music should be played. Those leading the worship should have all materials pre-prepared and be ready to receive children and visitors.

Class teachers walk the children into the hall in a calm and quiet manner. All staff, students and helpers are invited to join the worship. Everyone is seated and given time to listen and respond to the music. The leader of the worship welcomes everyone and invites them to participate in the worship.

Appropriate materials, resources, stories, prayers, poems and artefacts should be chosen for the age, background and experience of the children. Materials chosen should not contain elements of racism or sexism and an awareness of other faiths should be shown in the welcome we offer to all pupils and the celebration of shared values and beliefs.

Themes for our worship may be drawn from:

- The Church Year
- Christian Festivals
- Teachings about the life of Christ
- British Values
- School Values
- Stories about significant people in history
- Issues relevant to our school SMSC programme or in response to an identified need within this.
- Issues relevant to on-going Units of Study
- Feedback and ideas given at Worship Committee Meetings

We should provide as many opportunities as possible for the children to participate. Often children share their celebrations or important news and write and read their own prayers.

An Act of Worship is concluded with further music being played and children are encouraged to listen, before being asked to leave quietly and calmly, a class at a time.

Sarah Blunt (Worship Leader)
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