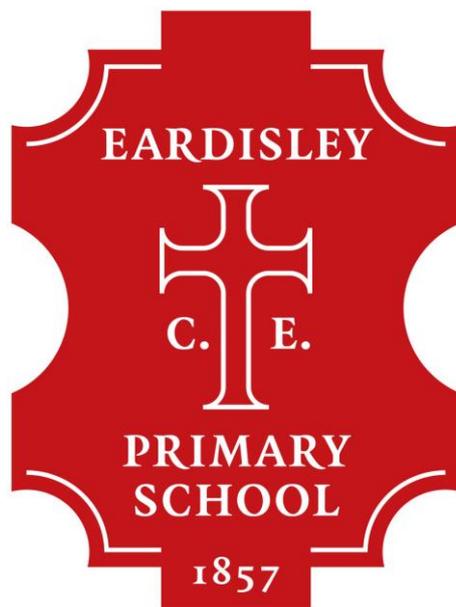


Eardisley Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.

William Temple (1881-1894)

Philosophy

Eardisley C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to take part in spiritual contemplation, reflection and prayer. All the children attend, and staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Collective Worship and the Law

As a church school we fulfil the two legal requirements for Collective Worship:

- The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

All acts of worship at Eardisley CE Primary School are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at Eardisley CE Primary School that worship should:

- reflect the schools' Trust Deed
- reflect the Ethos Statement of the school
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church

- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Church year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

Each month there is a theme for Collective Worship based on the Christian Values chosen by the School Council. These are published at the beginning of the year. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is Collective Worship provided underpinned by the school's Christian ethos and Christian values.

Collective Worship is given a special period in the school day:

- Monday 1.05-1.25 – Whole School Collective Worship
- Tuesday 1.05-1.25 – Whole School Collective Worship
- Wednesday .1.05-1.25 – Whole School Collective Worship or class-based worship
- Thursday 1.05-1.25 – Whole School Collective Worship
- Friday .05-1.25 – Whole School Celebration Worship

Worship takes place in a variety of settings; for example - In the school hall, in a class, outside, in the local church. It is led by the headteacher, class teachers, the children, our local rector and, on occasions, outside speakers. The school attends Eardisley Church to celebrate significant times of the liturgical year.

The pattern of worship reflects the broad spectrum of the Anglican tradition and Christian heritage. It allows the pupils to encounter some of the wide range of art, music and artefacts within the Christian tradition and offers opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and personal development.

Worship provides pupils with an opportunity to worship God in an environment conducive to worship. It offers pupils opportunities to encounter the more challenging experiences of life and death and provide opportunities for the pupils to share and reflect upon things that are significant and meaningful to them. Each act of worship gives time for silent reflection and an exploration of inner space.

The school hall has a 'sacred table' set aside with a cloth and a candle as a vehicle for prayer and reflection, and a prayer tree that holds the children's own written prayers.

Worship at Eardisley CE Primary School is an uplifting and positive experience, celebrating all that is good and expressing thankfulness to and joy in God.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

The Ethos Committee, comprising our Foundation and other Governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school to ensure that worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. We encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

Rights of Withdrawal

Eardisley CE Primary School is an inclusive community; however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Eardisley CE Primary School.