



Rowde C of E Academy

Learn, Grow, Love

**Collective Worship
Policy**

Date agreed: October 2020

Review Date: July 2022

Intent

Our Collective Worship Policy is based on the Vision and Values of our Christian School. This is underpinned by Jesus' Mustard Seed Parable "*from the smallest seeds grow the greatest shrubs*" (Mt13v31-32) alongside the 6 values that are the foundation of our Christian belief in school.

R	<p>Respect: We value everyone and everything and celebrate our differences, knowing that God loves us all, equally. We show the same kindness and consideration in school as we do in our community. We also know to have respect for our belongings, our environment and our own health and well-being.</p> <p>At Rowde we treat others as we would want to be treated ourselves. We are tolerant when mistakes are made; it's part of being human. Sometimes our mistakes hurt others and we need to say sorry. When other people's mistakes hurt us, we seek to forgive. We believe that God's love is so great that His forgiveness is always given</p> <p><i>"treat others as you would want them to treat you." (Matthew 7:12)</i></p>
O	<p>Optimism: Children and adults at Rowde are optimistic and have high hopes and aspirations for our future, our school and community. Hope for us means that there is always a positive future whatever situation we are in, because God promised to never leave us, to always love us, and to help us in times of need. It is more than wishing things could be better, it is about believing that the world can be better and being prepared to do something to make this come about!</p> <p><i>"Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold." 2 Corinthians 3.12</i></p>
W	<p>Wisdom : At Rowde we are constantly striving to develop our knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Wisdom is different to just being clever. It is about being an independent thinker which is valued by everyone. Wise people are those who are able to give good advice or those who help us reflect on what we need to do to make difficult decisions. We pray because we believe that God can help us to live our lives wisely.</p> <p><i>"God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore." 1 Kings 4:29</i></p>
D	<p>Determination: At Rowde we are determined to keep going to be the very best we can be. We persevere with what we are doing, showing great courage and endurance. We are compassionate to those who need help when things become difficult and painful. We believe that God guides us through life and is always there for us. We try to work hard and never give up even when things are hard.</p> <p><i>"Stand firm, and you will win life." (Luke 21)</i></p>
E	<p>Enthusiasm: We are enthusiastic and positive about learning and enjoying school. Being enthusiastic means approaching life with energy, having the right attitude and not being discouraged when we make mistakes because we know that mistakes are made when we are learning. Teachers aim to inspire by providing creative and exciting lessons. Enthusiasm is contagious and one small spark of energy and encouragement can ignite others to live their lives more fully, joyfully and with creativity.</p> <p><i>"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord," Colossians 3.23</i></p>
Love	<p>Love: underpins everything that we do. It is very much 'the why' of who we are. Love is evident in our relationships with each other and in our actions to support our community and our world. We see love in our interactions at school and home, feel it when we are together, and experience it through how others act towards us. We are patient with one another and tolerant when mistakes are made. We can grow and learn together because we know that God loves us.</p> <p><i>"Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything together" Colossians 3:14</i></p>

Our daily act of collective worship aims to ensure that the Christian character of our school is preserved and developed. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England. In addition to this, we also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collectiveworship-in-schools>

At Rowde the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement of Learn, Grow, Love.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection. Our school ensures that every child is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

At Rowde Church of England Primary Academy our intent is to

Provide regular opportunities for the children to participate in collective prayer and reflection. • Frequently share and discuss stories from the Bible and discover the meaning and learning of these stories. • Explore the meaning of each School Christian Value and express what this means to them. • Build strong relationships with members of the school church and local community via the holding of regular Family Worships and Community Events. • Encourage the children to think about current issues in the world and what they can do to contribute to the healing or improvement of this – i.e. charity work/prayer/changing their actions etc. • Explore with the children the power of faith and how this can guide and support them in all that they do. • Submerge the children in the joy of singing God's words. • Create opportunities for the children to explore that of other faiths and gain a good understanding and mutual respect of their beliefs, culture and traditions.

Implementation

The Worship lead currently plans the weekly worship themes which are taken from a variety of sources including <https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/> and <https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/>

They are developed to ensure that during times of not being able to gather as a whole community, that the message and teaching remains the same. The Act of Worship planning will be based on

- Liturgical church calendar,
- Our Christian values,
- PSHE and British Values,
- Special events such as 'World book day'. • Picture News (RE/Global affairs Resource)
- Issues which arise from everyday life and Christian ethos of the school, taking into account the age, aptitude and family background of our pupils.

We provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:
Monday Whole School values worship led by the Head teacher and teachers on a rotation basis.
Tuesday Understanding the Bible – led in the main by Reverend Ruth or the open the Book Team.
Wednesday is a sing and praise and celebrate worship where teachers lead this on a rotational basis.
Thursday is class or Key stage. The themes are usually the same, but content is differentiated appropriately. On Friday we have whole school worship led by Head Boy and Head Girl and supported by the Head teacher. This is a celebration worship where Value of the week ambassadors are celebrated as well as other celebrations which are important to children including birthdays. In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship.

Each Act of Worship follows the traditional liturgical structure of the Anglican Church and consists of:

- Gathering: A call to worship with our school response **“We gather together to Worship God Who loves us and helps us learn and grow”**
- Engaging: This is the part of the worship where the attendees are asked to join in with something. This might include; listening to a story or a prayer or a song, watching a play or joining in with a dance or activity, thinking about something. This is delivered in a variety of different ways suitable to the topic and age range of the children. Visual stimuli, audio visual resources, drama and other interactive pupil participation are used where necessary.
- Responding: This is the part of the worship where the attendees are given a time to reflect personally on the idea or theme we have explored or reading we have listened to. This often includes a quiet time for reflection, prayer or song.
- Sending out: Attendees are reminded of the theme and given encouragement to take forward these ideas into the life of the school, living out the Christian Values. The worship ends with our school response. **“ We go out into the world to learn grow and love”**

As a school we have strong links with St Matthews Church in Rowde. Reverend Ruth plays an active role in the life of the school; she leads collective worship once a fortnight, as well as supporting our Religious Education teaching and being a School Governor. Our whole school community visit the church at various times of the year, including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and our end of year Leaver’s Service. We welcome our families and the wider community to these services.

The school is currently looking at redeveloping our spiritual area for children, to provide a dedicated space for outdoor reflection time. The school has a Values Tree, in the entrance area of the school. There is a reflection area in each class which can be used as a moment of calmness and stillness if the children want to be with their thoughts. Children are encouraged to write short prayers in their classes and place them in their prayer box or book in the class worship area. Sometimes these are related to the Value of the week, on other occasions this could be a personal prayer.

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Evaluations will also be recorded here. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship. Parents are informed on a termly basis about the themes for worship.

The right of parents to withdraw their children from all or part of the act of worship will be respected. Pupils withdrawn will be appropriately occupied within the school. Parents wishing to do so are advised to discuss the matter with the Head teacher in the first instance but are not obliged to state their reasons for so doing. It is expected that staff convey their commitment by participating in and leading worship.

Impact

Collective worship is accessible to all children of any religious background or none and regardless of race, gender or disability. All should feel equally valued and able to participate. Collective worship at Rowde is important to the life and purposes of our school. It is an inclusive act which encourages

reflection in all present. It is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian values and ethos of the school.

The collective worship and RE coordinator collates and draw conclusions through evaluation forms and by speaking with the children, staff and other adults on the quality of acts of worship. Class worship leaders gather thoughts and feelings in class reflection books and in our RE books.

Monitoring is carried out throughout the year. Here the children, members of staff and trustees are asked to share their views and feelings about collective worship, offering suggestions for any changes or improvements they feel are needed. Findings are passed onto the coordinator on a regular basis. Suggested developments are discussed with the SLT and Worship Trustee. Parents have the worship themes for the term ahead and are welcome to come and discuss any queries or problems with the collective worship coordinator and the Head teacher.