

Beresford Memorial CE (VA) First School

'Loving and Learning Together'

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Collective Worship Policy

Spring 2015

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Policy Statement

At Beresford Memorial, 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.

'Loving and Learning Together'

It is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship in school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church leaders and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

We identify the values of Respect, Hope, Honesty, Compassion, Creativity and Courage as our key values.

We identify the importance of the 'Golden Rule':

'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.' **Matthew 7:12-14**

Our motto reflects the words of Jesus in the Bible.

'I give you a new command; love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.' **John 13:34**

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirements stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for children. Our current schedule is as follows:

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| Monday | Whole school worship led by Rev Woods or Marcus Brookfield (Church Children's Worker). On the first Monday of each half term this worship takes place at St. Paul's Church. |
| Tuesday | Whole school worship led by the Head teacher or Deputy Head. |
| Wednesday | Whole school 'Songs for Worship' led by Worship Co-ordinator and Deputy Head with prayer/reflection time. |
| Thursday | Class worship - led by each class teacher with input from the children. |
| Friday | Celebration worship - led by Head teacher. Children are rewarded for demonstrating our values and attributes of a Beresford Learner. |

At various times throughout the year each class will lead an assembly on a topical theme (e.g. Mother's Day). Parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday's collective worship are decided upon in discussion with Rev. Woods. The theme is always Bible based and usually stands alone from our other half termly themes. Rev Woods provides details of his plans for the half term which are then transferred onto our school worship planner.

The themes for Tuesday's collective worship reflect our Values focus for that half term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and/or current events. This worship is usually led by the Head teacher or Deputy.

Wednesday's 'Songs for Worship' follows the same format as our other collective worship to ensure that it is more than simply a 'hymn practice'. The use of our key elements of worship (e.g. candles lit, reflective music etc.) help us to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new songs and hymns as well as learning them.

Class Worship, which takes place each Thursday at a time to suit each individual class, gives each class the opportunity to discuss and reflect more deeply on the half termly value. The children are involved in the leading of worship and participate actively, often using special objects and artefacts to help them focus (e.g. prayer stones, candles etc.) On the final week of the half term 'Reflection Journals' are completed by each child. Not only do these allow a framework for reflection and self-review but they are also a very useful tool through which the co-ordinator can evaluate the impact and effectiveness of worship, in terms of the children's understanding and enjoyment.

Friday's are our Celebration Worship where we gather as a school to celebrate the children's achievements both in and outside school. Teachers will identify children who have demonstrated both the attributes of a 'Beresford Learner' and our key values. These children receive a special certificate to celebrate their achievement. The achievements of the four House Teams are also celebrated during this worship time. Each of the houses is named after a precious stone - to reflect the preciousness of the children - and the points that they have accrued during the week for good behaviour and effort in their work are calculated and celebrated.

Format of Worship

Each act of whole school collective worship follows a particular format which the school community has developed together.

'Worship Leaders' from Year 4 are responsible, on a rota basis, for many parts of the worship.

See attached Worship Leaders plan and Worship PowerPoint.

The worship format includes a greeting, lighting of the candle, prayers (including the Lord's Prayer), a song/hymn and a sending out.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including 'Songs for Worship.' A range of prayers are used, including those written by the children. The Lord's Prayer is said at every worship. They are introduced in an appropriate manner and children are encouraged to close their eyes and put their hands together if this helps them to focus on prayer time.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by each class. This is usually in the form of a rhyming prayer and is often led by one of the children:

Thank You for the world so sweet,

Thank You for the food we eat,

Thank You for the birds that sing,

Thank You God for everything.

Amen

Each class will also end the day in prayer:

Help us to do the things we should,

To be to others kind and good,

In all we do at work or play

To grow more loving every day.

Amen

The school has a Prayer Tree in the main corridor. Children are encouraged to write short prayers and hang them onto the tree. Sometimes these may be related to the value for the half term, on other occasions these could be personal prayers. The Worship Leaders will often choose a prayer from the Prayer Tree to read during worship.

Many of the classes have devised their own prayer and reflection practices - some use prayer boxes, others have smaller prayer trees and some use prayer stones.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring.

A file is kept with all of the worship planning and other documents inside. Reflection Journals are used to monitor and evaluate impact of worship as well as records of pupil voice.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, Beresford Memorial ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge. St Paul's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues.

Parents, relatives and friends are invited to our special services in church as well as our class led worships at school.

The governing body has established link governor roles and, as a result of this, the RE & Worship co-ordinator and link governor (also a Foundation governor) meet half termly to discuss various aspects of worship. This ensures an effective line of communication between the co-ordinator and the governing body.

V Longson - Worship Co-ordinator.

Spring 2015.