



KIRK SMEATON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Reviewed May 2017

“Church schools, through their understanding of the importance and centrality of worship, create imaginative approaches which can contribute powerfully to the spiritual development of their pupils”.

The Way Ahead: Church of England Schools in the New Millennium

Philosophy

Kirk Smeaton Church of England Primary School is a voluntary controlled school. Worship and Religious Education is therefore an important part of the school life as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. The school vicar also attends every week to lead collective worship. At Kirk Smeaton Church of England Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship and Religious Education is important to provide opportunities for our pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and understanding. It also gives some time for thinking, listening, sharing, stillness and silence.

Aims

It is our aim at Kirk Smeaton Church of England Primary School that worship might incorporate some of the following:

- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings;
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet;
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language, symbolism and values;
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection;
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship;
- give an appreciation of things considered to be of worth or held in high regard;
- give an appreciation of the joys and wonders of the world;
- give a reinforcement of the shared values of the school community;
- an acknowledgment of the achievement and efforts of others, the struggles and sufferings of other human beings.
- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
- develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) requires that all registered pupils apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) take part in a daily act of collective worship. At Kirk Smeaton Church of England Primary School we try to do our best to ensure that we are providing as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible. Collective worship can take place as a class and also as a whole school, this allows for us take into account the pupil's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. The head teacher and governors may apply for a determination from SACRE (**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**) if there are a large number of pupils in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background. The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. At the junction between worship and assembly the candle is extinguished. At Kirk Smeaton Church of England Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the rights 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 and Foundation Governors followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Legal Status of Religious Education

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the reception class who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. The ERA also allows teachers to refuse to teach religious education, but only after they have given due notice of their intention to the school governors. The religious education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on North Yorkshire's Agreed Syllabus (supplemented by the Wakefield Diocese) and it meets all requirements. The ERA states that the RE syllabus should reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and that it should, at the same time, take account of the teachings and practices of other major religions.

Let God's love shine as we care for each other and learn together.

What you would see at Kirk Smeaton School

A faith day each half term	Each half term classes research a different faith, we do this on a rotation so that all resources can be shared.										
RE teaching	All classes follow the RE today scheme. RE is taught weekly within a morning session, where possible we link the RE to other curriculum areas such as art, drama etc.										
Class folder and writing book	We record RE and ethos in RE books , we have an ethos book where we add pictures, postit notes, RE sheets, children's ideas over the year.										
Display of RE and collective worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme • Faith week • Class service sheet • Celebrations and talents for the class. • Bible stories 	<p>Display We ask the children to bring pictures, photos etc.</p> <p>Term 1 1 friends and family Term 1 2 Preparing for visitors Term 2 1 Love Term 2 2 Lent- self sacrifice Term 3 1 Pentecost- celebrating me Term 3 2 Competition and team work</p> <p>Displays should have the colour cloth or paper.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Display Colour</th> <th>Time of the year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Green</td> <td>Ordinary time</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violet</td> <td>Advent Lent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>Christmas day Holy Thursday</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red</td> <td>Palm Sunday Good Friday Pentecost</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>At Kirk Smeaton we teacher ethos and RE daily in everything we do, as and when things are covered they are added a child's writing book, class displays and/or class folder.</p>	Display Colour	Time of the year	Green	Ordinary time	Violet	Advent Lent	White	Christmas day Holy Thursday	Red	Palm Sunday Good Friday Pentecost
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SRE	All classes are taught this using a PPT to focus on teaching and questions that need to be addressed. SRE is taught weekly. Year 5 children have a puberty talk Year 6 children have a sex talk										
Community links	Kirk Smeaton School has a duty to serve it's community, we encourage our children to take a lead in order to make our community better. Here are just a few of the things we do; Harvest festival; Remembrance Day; Balloon race; Nativity; Whole school Assemblies; Class assemblies; Sharing Christian values; Christingle; Share our learning and RE in the community booklet; House points; sharing attendance weekly; Ethos displays in class, round school and Church; Whooshes; Cards to families and community; Writing to shops; School council; Easter service; Mother's Day and Father's Day Services; Performances; Relationships with parents; Parent point and reading mornings; One page profile mornings ; Community Summer and Christmas Fayres										
Collective worship and assemblies	At Kirk Smeaton Church of England Primary School we try and ensure that Collective Worship is fully inclusive and that all pupils can benefit from the experiences offered. We recognise that certain strategies are needed to enable all pupils to respond effectively. These strategies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • music; • visual stimuli such as artefacts, picture or special objects; • A candle • OHP of calming visual images • stories that enable pupils to come to terms with personal experiences through their capacity to promote self-reflection and understanding of the thoughts and feelings of others; • drama 										

Organisation of collective worship and Religious Education

Day	Whole school	Class assemblies linked to RE and collective worship
Monday	Whole school collective worship- whoosh (child led)	Ethos statement/ class and whole school targets
Tuesday	Gospel story and Christian values (Fr Adrian)	Bible stories
Wednesday	Whole school collective worship- current affairs	Seeing God in everyday life...
Thursday	Whole school singing worship	Philosophy – THINK of the week
Friday	Whole school celebration Attendance, team points, Star writer/reader/Mathematician,	Show and tell- develops confidence. Talk about our successes. Postit notes and a display.

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