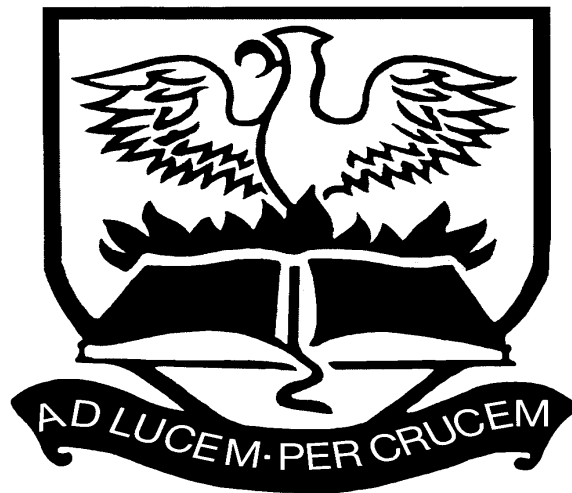


ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

POLICY WRITTEN BY:
DATE POLICY PREPARED:
DATE POLICY REVIEWED:
DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW:

J Griffiths
November 2004
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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy should be taken and used as part of Archbishop Blanch Church of England School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our Mission Statement and founding Trust Deed. As a Church of England school, we accept and respect all members of our community as unique children of God, precious in His sight and of infinite worth.

INTRODUCTION

This policy is implemented within the spirit of the school's Mission Statement:

“Our school aims to equip students for life.
True to our Anglican ethos,
we will nurture academic potential, individual talent,
respect and self worth in each person.”

The ethos of Archbishop Blanch School, embracing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the traditions of the Anglican Church and this largely finds expression in the cycle of the Church's liturgical year.

Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of our school. It is a special time in the day when members of the school community meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and worship God.

RATIONALE

- Collective Worship is in accordance with the founding Trust Deed of the school; this requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will therefore, be wholly Christian in character.
- DfEE – Circular 1/94 states that “Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; and to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.”
- All maintained schools, including Church schools, must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils.
- Pupils are expected to attend all acts of Collective Worship. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship on religious grounds; the school expects that withdrawal will only take place following discussion between parents and the Headteacher.
- Each member of staff holds a National Society Contract which includes Clause 8a on Religious Education and Clause 8b on respecting the character of the school's foundation.
- We acknowledge and welcome a large number of pupils and staff from other Christian groups. The Anglican tradition has a firm commitment to ecumenism, and this finds expression at Archbishop Blanch School through members of other Christian traditions leading worship and bringing to it the richness of their experience.

- We value the religious experiences that pupils and staff of other faiths bring to our school community. The values and heritage of those faiths are celebrated in our worship at appropriate times.

Archbishop Blanch School pledges itself to be a place where pupils and staff of all races and religions will find safety and respect for themselves, their families and their traditions.

AIMS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- To provide Collective Worship of a high quality and to ensure that it has a central place in the life of the school.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils and adults to praise and reach out to God.
- To enable pupils to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to respect all individuals as children of God.
- To heighten feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness and mystery.
- To provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet.
- To share the central teachings of Jesus Christ and the Christian Church at an appropriate level.
- To explore and reinforce the Christian values of the school community, such as love, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation and peace – a community where each individual really does matter.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity to approach God with a variety of forms of prayer; these might include praise, seeking forgiveness and asking on behalf of self and others.
- To celebrate and give thanks for the achievements, talents and gifts of the school community, and to foster feelings of belonging through a sharing of experiences.
- To foster respect and care for God’s creation by a positive attitude to environmental issues.
- To provide enjoyable and memorable experiences of worship.
- To contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each pupil.
- To provide pupils with a strong foundation on which to build a vibrant and lifelong relationship with God.

At Archbishop Blanch School, we understand that our pupils’ approach to worship will be at differing levels of commitment. Therefore, we aim through Collective Worship and our Religious Studies curriculum to:

“Nurture those of the faith,
support those of other faiths
and challenge those of no faith.”
[Lord Robert Runcie]

Our aim is to develop and share the school's Christian ethos, recognising that this should not be taken for granted, but worked at through worship and daily life.

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that the Anglican foundation of the school is honoured and that the Collective Worship Policy is firmly based upon the intentions laid down in the Trust Deed. There is a link governor for Collective Worship.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the Collective Worship on a day to day basis. He/she should also act in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues in terms of providing materials for form prayers/reflections.

The School Chaplains: Our Chaplain, Reverend Mike Griffin, was appointed by the Bishop of Liverpool and is a member of the Anglican clergy; in addition, we have a lay chaplain, Mrs Catherine Loveland, who is Head of Religious Studies at the school.

The School Improvement Plan [SIP] shall include in Section 1:1 one or more aims to improve the school's worshipping life and/or community links with Liverpool's faith communities.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship for pupils in Years 7-13 shall be arranged as follows:

DAY	PERSON LEADING	PUPILS
Monday	Headteacher	Years 7 – 11
Tuesday	Chaplain/Visitor	Years 7 – 8
Wednesday	PSHE/Form Prayers	Years 7 – 13
Thursday	Chaplain/SLT/Visitor	Years 9 – 11; Yr 12, 13
Friday	Head of Year/Form Teacher	Year Group Acts of Worship [led by each form on a yearly rota]

- On the days in the week when pupils do not meet as a school community or in year groups, form prayers and/or a reflection shall take place. An Archbishop Blanch School booklet of suggested prayers shall be given to all form teachers.
- There shall be a weekly theme for Collective Worship which is published at the beginning of the academic year and a reminder shall be included in the weekly Pupil and Staff Bulletins. It is expected that those leading Collective Worship that week will relate their worship to this theme. However, this pattern is flexible and, on occasions, it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that it is appropriate to respond to school, local or national events; it is important that pupils appreciate that the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.

- The Church's liturgical cycle enables our school community to reflect on and/or celebrate events in the life of Jesus Christ and on the role of the Church in the world. The festivals of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Harvest shall be celebrated either in school or at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.
- Whole school Eucharists, conducted according to the rites of Common Worship, shall take place on Ash Wednesday and to celebrate Easter. In addition, Eucharists shall be held at important transitional times – e.g. a Service of Blessing at the beginning of Year 7, a Record of Achievement Service at the end of Year 11 and a Year 13 Leavers' Eucharist. Voluntary pre-school Eucharists, led by the Chaplain, shall be held during Advent and Lent.
- In addition to these whole school Eucharists, the Christian life of the school is reflected in two other major services held annually during the Autumn Term – i.e. An Evening to Celebrate Achievement, held in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, and Founders' Day.
- Visitors representing the worshipping communities of Liverpool frequently lead our worship; they add breadth and richness to our understanding of religious commitment and service. Guidelines are given to all those taking acts of worship for the first time at the school [see Appendix 1].
- The school shall provide facilities for Muslim pupils to pray within school at the required time and would respect the needs of other faiths on request. During worship, mention is made of all major world religions and pupils from other faiths are encouraged to lead services.
- The school's Worship Committee [which includes the Headteacher, Head of Religious Studies, Chaplain, other staff and pupils] shall meet at regular intervals during the year to plan festival celebrations, to evaluate and make plans to improve the school community's experience of Collective Worship, and to monitor the progress of Section 1:1 of the School Improvement Plan, where appropriate.
- The Worship Committee shall be given an annual budget to purchase resources, elements for Eucharists and photocopying.

CONTENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- As mentioned above, there shall be a published weekly theme for Collective Worship. The themes may:
 - a) have a specific Christian base, such as events in the life of Jesus;
 - b) reflect a subject common to all religions, such as creation;
 - c) be on the subject of common values held by people of faith and of no faith, such as honesty and caring.
- All acts of worship shall be planned with consideration for the group of pupils taking part; attention shall be paid, therefore, to the use of language, concepts and stimuli appropriate to the age and varying abilities of the pupils present.
- Opportunities shall be taken to use resources and activities such as Bible passages, drama, music, poetry, quiet reflection, dance and data projector technology.
- The school's Collective Worship shall provide opportunity for reflection and silence so that pupils and staff can make the worship their own if they so wish.

- Pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in the school's Collective Worship, which reflects the involvement many pupils have in the life and witness of their faith community. Their involvement may be at different levels according to the wishes of individuals – for example, reading Bible passages, leading intercessions or drama, being members of the choirs or instrumental groups, taking Holy Communion or a blessing and joining in congregational responses.
- It shall be the aim of those leading Collective Worship in the school that those taking part may have the opportunity to grow in their spirituality and feel reassured that their particular faith stance is respected, whilst allowing the opportunity for challenge.

GUIDELINES FOR VISITORS LEADING AN ACT OF WORSHIP AT ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL

Welcome to Archbishop Blanch Church of England High School and thank you for accepting our invitation to lead an act of Collective Worship at our school. We hope that you will find the following information helpful as you prepare for your visit.

- Visiting leaders from Liverpool's faith communities usually lead acts of worship on a Tuesday to pupils in Years 7 and 8 [11-13 years of age] and/or to pupils in Years 9-11 [13-16 years of age] and to Years 12-13 [16-19 years of age] on a Thursday. There are approximately 140 girls in each year group in Years 7-11 and 200 girls, and a few boys, in Years 12 and 13. We will state clearly which act of worship we wish you to lead.
- The majority of our pupils are from Christian families, whilst around 15% are of other world faiths, mostly Muslim. The recognition of other faiths is an important feature in our worship though, clearly, the main focus of our acts of worship shall be, and are expected to be, Christian.
- Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of our school. It is a special time in the day when members of the school community meet together in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and worship God in a variety of ways.
- Our acts of Collective Worship on Tuesdays and Thursdays last approximately 10-12 minutes, commencing at 8.50 am. There is a weekly theme to our worship and you are most welcome to use this theme as the basis for your talk. Mrs Loveland, our Lay Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies, will give you this information when setting a date for your visit.
- We have CD, DVD, data projection and computer laptop technology available; please let us know in advance if you wish to use this equipment.
- Our acts of worship include a prayer and, therefore, we request that you end your talk/presentation with a prayer.
- Please be aware of the ages of your "congregation" when preparing your worship and be sensitive to the wide range of experience, beliefs and opinions that our pupils hold.

We look forward very much to your visit and the contribution you will make to the worshipping life of our school. We hope that this will be the beginning of a long friendship.