

"We all play our part in achieving excellence in everything"

Governors' Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision and Values

"We all play our part to achieve excellence in everything."

- 1. The Christian values of love and compassion for others; kindness tolerance and respect are at the heart of our learning journey together as the Pilgrim Federation.**
- 2. We believe that learning should be creative, innovative, inspiring and irresistible.**
- 3. Staff, parents, governors, children and the local community all play their part in our learning and in achieving excellence in everything we do.**

Key principles

The Governors and Schools of the Pilgrim Federation believe that all acts of worship are in accordance with the founding Church of England Trust Deed and the Ethos Statement in the Federation's Instruments of Government.

Central to worship in our schools is the story of God and his Son Jesus Christ. It is a celebration of the Christian values and ethos of the Federation.

To worship means to express one's love and devotion to God.

In our schools we aim to encourage our children in a variety of ways in which, if they choose to believe and love God for themselves, they can express loving and being loved by God.

Singing songs centred on God's blessings, and praying prayers that focus on God's goodness are two examples of worship that those who choose to, can participate in collectively.

Our aims

Through collective worship across the Pilgrim Federation we aim to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will allow our children and staff to respond to the presence, power and peace of God should they be moved to do so.
- Present worship that will impact, support and strengthen the Federation's vision, values and ethos
- Present collective worship that is inspirational and inclusive

- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. the Lord's Prayer
- Strengthen and support the school communities, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of the Federation
- Celebrate the gifts that each person brings to their school communities, recognising the uniqueness of each individual
- Encourage reflection on the puzzling questions that life poses and response to the wonder and mystery of the world around us
- Foster a concern for others within each school, across the Federation and the wider world
- Explore the traditions of other faiths
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils, which takes account of their age and aptitude (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school, however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

Organisation and Style of Worship

In practice it is anticipated that this will involve:

- A balance between whole school and smaller groups
- The timing of collective worship
- Who leads
- Resourcing - including artefacts, books and training for staff; 'Open the Book' (a three year programme of biblical stories);
- Planning - short, medium and long term - including who is responsible and who else is involved
- How worship takes account of the church year, the Bible as a source book and the Church of England's commitment to ecumenism and dialogue with other faiths
- The range of approaches used
- Invite children and adults to pray in a manner in which they feel most comfortable
- Beginning worship with the Federation Greeting: say and sign - "Good morning (afternoon) friends."
- Regular programme of visitors to lead worship
- How worship is evaluated and monitored - and by whom