

Support for writing a collective worship policy for a church primary school



Guidance from the
Diocesan Board of Education

January 2013



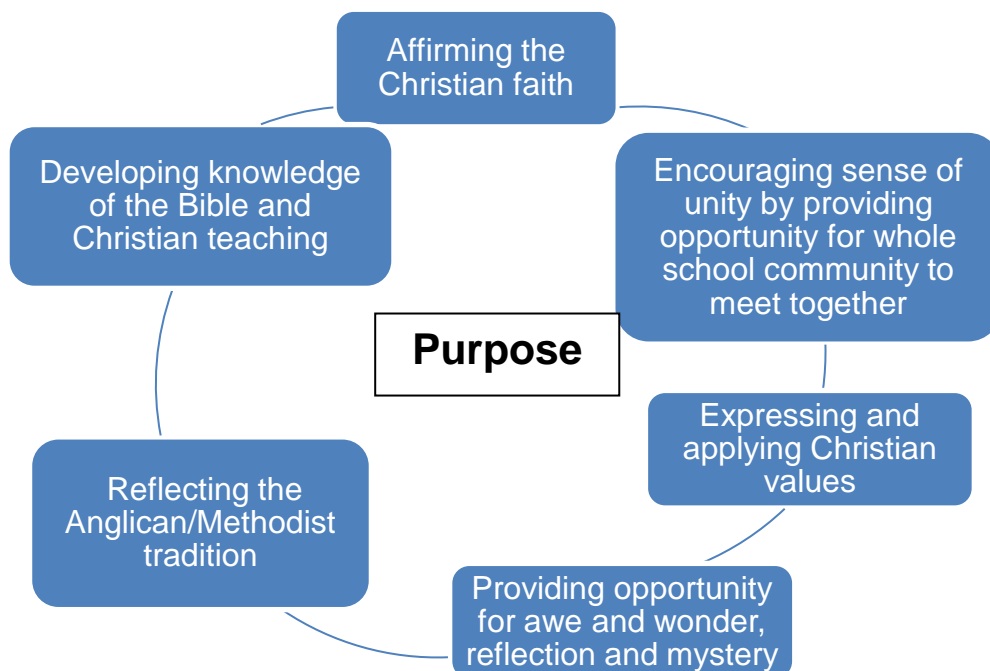
Diocesan Guidelines for a collective worship policy

Introductory paragraph

This should mention:

- Statement of legal requirement for a daily act of collective worship (See DfES circular 1/94)
- The right of parental withdrawal
- That it worship is consistent with the Christian foundation of the school as expressed in the Trust Deed
- A distinction to be made between collective worship and assembly.
- That the policy is in the context of the vision, aims and values of the school as a church of England school
- The connection between the school's policy and the Living Worship strand of the Diocesan vision 'Joining together in the Transforming Mission of God'.
- That the policy has been formally adopted by the governing body in consultation with the headteacher.

Purpose of collective worship



Responsibilities

Brief reference to the roles and responsibilities of people within the school community:

- Governors – fulfilling their statutory duty
- Foundation Governors – a named link governor who monitors the quality of collective worship. Ensuring collective worship is consistent with the trust deed

- Head Teacher – delegated responsibility for day to day acts of collective worship
- Co - ordinator (if not head teacher) – delegated responsibility for day to day acts of collective worship
- Leaders of collective worship – planning and delivery of acts of worship

Organisation

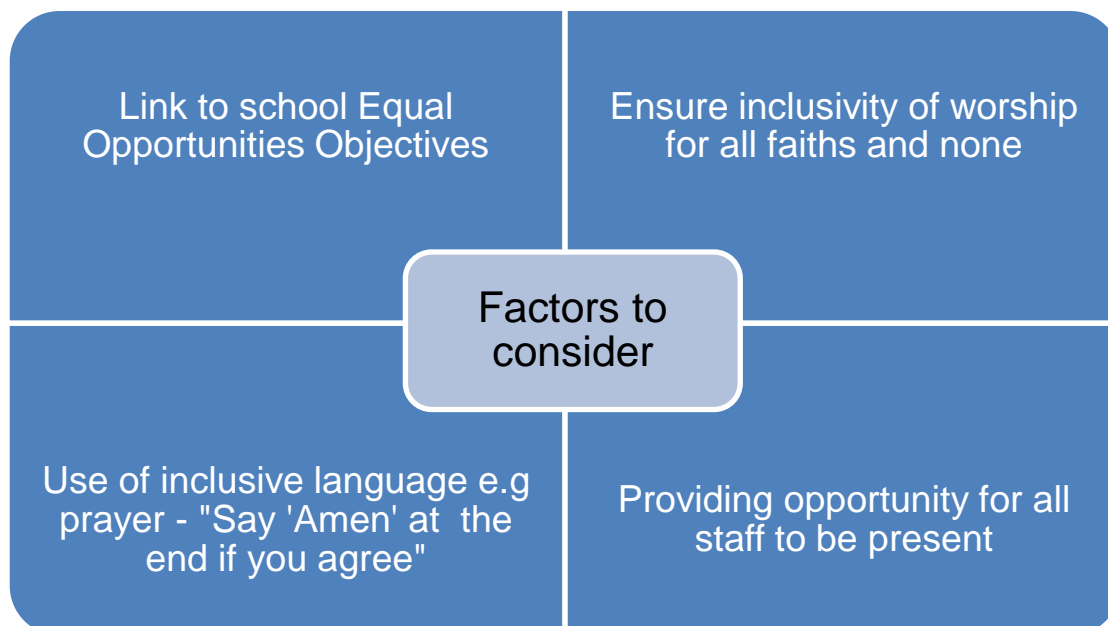
In order to create a sense of occasion consideration should be given to:

- Rationale for timing of worship
- Appropriate themes linking to Christian teaching and values
- Involvement of children in the organisation and delivery
- Appropriate locations for worship e.g. hall, classroom, outside area, church
- Pattern of worship e.g. who has worship at what times and in what venue

Role of co-ordinator

- Communication between RE and collective worship co-ordinators
- Identifying and recording themes and resources
- Support for colleagues on delivery of collective worship
- Identify training needs
- Monitoring acts of worship and evaluating impact
- Ensuring all staff recognise the need to develop themes and content beyond collective worship

Equal Opportunities



Visitors

- Visitors roles and responsibilities
- Guidelines provided for visitors (See additional support document)

Role of Incumbent

Will depend on context of parish and school and will be the outcome of a dialogue between the head teacher and incumbent regarding the extent of the incumbent's involvement in collective worship.

Conclusion

End with a paragraph emphasising the centrality of collective worship to the life of the school. This should be expressed in terms of its Christian distinctiveness and contribution to the life and well being of the school.

Policy review date.....