



Mission Statement

Working, learning, playing, praying and believing together we will be stronger.

The Federation of Onny and Lydbury North C of E (A) Primary Schools seeks to serve the Community in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. Prayer and Worship are at the heart of our daily life. Each and every child is held in the love of God and their uniqueness, progress and achievements celebrated. We foster a happy, nurturing, stimulating environment which motivates children, promoting self-esteem and the confidence to thrive in the wider world.

Both Onny CE School and Lydbury North CE School prize highly their status as Church of England Voluntary Aided schools. We look forward to the Federation between our schools leading to our being able to explore more deeply how we can live out our calling to be church schools in the context of an increasingly secularised society. We will remain inclusive and determined to serve those of Christian faith and of no faith - our admission policies will not give preference to those who attend local churches, our doors will be open to as wide a cross section of our local community as possible.

We will explore together what it is to be a school which is called demonstrate a distinctive Christian ethos. We will continue therefore to be schools where children and adults learn together what it is to create a caring environment, with concern for each individual as loved by God for their own sake. We will continue to present the Christian faith in an attractive and accessible way – with imaginative school worship and assemblies and careful attention especially to the teaching of religious education. We shall develop creative links with our local parish churches, giving space for the clergy of those churches to be regular and welcome visitors into our schools – and also timetabling occasions when our children can visit their parish churches and also from time to time contribute creatively to Sunday worship, as well as fostering school worship in our parish churches.

In all of this we will work together, for example to develop common worship policies, to share our resources, to get to know each other's churches and clergy. We will work together to help children respect themselves and understand relationships.

In all of this we will continue to work closely with the Diocesan Education Team and ensure that the Foundation Governors who serve on our Governing Body help us in establishing links between school and church. We will work to ensure that those who worship in our parish churches are regularly kept up to date with details of school activities and encouraged to come and share in them.

The concept of a church school education is still much valued in our country – with approximately one million children attending Church of England Schools. We believe that church schools bring many advantages to the children who learn there and we are determined through our federation to exploit these to the full.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together each day. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The collective worship that we deliver will be broadly Anglican and value the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population and will be conducted within our Equal Opportunities Policy.

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of our school.

We aim to:

- Demonstrate the distinctive Christian character of our school
- Make the act of Collective Worship an important part of each school day
- Share Christian aims and explore a deeper understanding of Christian values
- Celebrate personal and shared achievements and special times

- Explore together the world in which we live reinforcing a sense of community and cohesion through appreciating those things we have in common
- Develop a community spirit demonstrating care and concern for others
- Develop a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, material and the here and now
- Provide time to consider values and beliefs - both their own and those of others;

For the Children:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Develop their own spirituality

- Develop a reflective approach to life
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Encourage children to participate in acts of worship
- Celebrate Christian festivals throughout the school year
- Experience a sense of community
- Develop care and concern for the wider world

The Management of Collective Worship

The Foundation Governors will monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship in the school. They have a responsibility to ensure the spirit of the school is honored. In conjunction with the Governing Body, Head teachers, staff and school communities, the worship policy created articulates the management and delivery of this area of the curriculum. Parents and Carers are kept informed through the school newsletters and website.

Mrs. Penny Knight (Headteacher) will be responsible for planning themes of collective worship across the Federation, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. There will be a planning meeting with Revd. Stephanie and/or Revd. Sarah each half term to coordinate the assemblies, services in church throughout the year and explore links with the current units taught in RE across the key stages. This will link with the rolling RE planning.

A record of Collective Worship is kept up to date and shared with staff, reviewed by Revd. Stephanie and/ or Revd. Sarah each term. Mrs. Penny Knight will attend Head's Diocese meetings and relevant CPD for the Federation and feedback to staff and governors. Dioceses newsletters will be forwarded on each week.

At present there is no incumbent at Onny School and so Revd. Stephanie and Revd. Sarah are supporting the school as much as they can; which is much appreciated by the local community.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Collective Worship will provide opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It will address a wide variety of themes and topics use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' at their own level.

Collective worship will also be planned to enhance aspects of the curriculum and allow for themes to be explored further in each class.

Collective worship will also have strong links with the RE curriculum units in the Federation RE Rolling Plan

Collective worship will have a half termly Christian value to explore and deepen understanding

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship and liaise with the Head teacher.

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, classroom and on occasions the church.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, but there will be longer acts of worship when our Incumbents and other visitors attend. There is an extended act of worship each Friday.

Current Timetable Each Week – Lydbury North

| Day | Grouping | Led by | Time | Place |
|-----------|--------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| Monday | Whole School | Mrs. Knight | 10.00 – 10.20am | Hall |
| Tuesday | Whole School | Mrs. Reynolds | 10.00 – 10.20am | Hall |
| Wednesday | Whole School | Miss Lewis | 10.00 – 10.20am | Hall |
| Thursday | Whole School | Rev. Stephanie or Rev. Sarah | 10.00 – 10.20am | Class 2 or Hall |
| | | Rev. Stephanie or Rev. Sarah | 9.45 – 10.00am | Nursery |
| Friday | Whole School | Congratulations Assembly – all staff | 10.00 – 10.30am | Hall |

Current Timetable Each Week - Onny

| Day | Grouping | Led by | Time | Place |
|-----------|--------------|---|---------------|-------|
| Monday | KS1 and KS2 | Miss Thomas | 2.50 – 3.10pm | Hall |
| Tuesday | KS1 and KS2 | Mrs. Murray | 2.50 – 3.10pm | Hall |
| Wednesday | KS1 and KS2 | Mrs. Knight | 2.50 – 3.10pm | Hall |
| Thursday | Whole School | Mrs. Watkins | 2.50 – 3.10pm | Hall |
| Friday | Whole School | Congratulations Assembly – all staff led by Miss Morton | 2.50 – 3.10pm | Hall |

Aspects of Our Collective Worship

- We hold a daily act of collective Worship in our school and this forms part of each Assembly. It may include music, song, stories, and shared experiences readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection.
- Assemblies have a varying character, sometimes calm and reflective, sometimes more celebratory where assemblies are lively and fun
- We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that are act as focal point for the attention of the children.
- The Head teacher and other members of staff share leading assemblies and Revd. Stephanie or Revd. Sarah lead assemblies each week at Lydbury.

- We take the themes for our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events from the Christian calendar as well as important festivals found in a range of other faiths. We plan our themes each half term with our incumbents.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is that all children are valued and all achievements recognized.
- We invite parents and friends to end of term Church services in our local church where we celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Easter and finally a Leaver's service; where all our school leavers are presented with a Bible from the Governors.
- We aim to celebrate "The Feast of St Michael" each year with a combined service for both schools.

Principles of Religious Education

We believe that good religious education teaching should:

- Accept that the beliefs of all faith traditions should be respected
- Make an important contribution to spiritual, social and cultural development through the content taught and approaches used
- Provide opportunities for developing a sense of awe, wonder, joy and thankfulness
- Introduce pupils to the mysterious dimension of life to which religious belief is a response
- Be taught in a way that is interesting, challenging and is relevant to pupils by providing opportunities for involvement in or experience of, some of the creative and practical aspects of religious belief
- Provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on or explore their own beliefs
- Help pupils to develop empathy and sensitivity towards others
- Provide children with the opportunity to find out what others believe but not actively set out to make them believe
- Follow the same educational principles that underpin all other areas of the curriculum

We believe that these principles will provide the basis for pupils to:

- Encounter a range of religious traditions, explore forms of religious expression and empathise with other views and ways of life through:
- Sacred texts
- The leaders who have authority within the tradition
- Key ideas about God
- Worship and celebration
- The way faith affects behaviour
- See the significance of belief in the lives of many people and consider the relevance of religion in their own lives
- Have the confidence to express their beliefs whether they be religious or not
- Know the basic outline of the life of Jesus and how it relates to the main Christian festivals
- Develop some understanding of the Anglican tradition
- Be familiar with a range of stories taken from religious traditions and make connections between these stories or teachings and the world as they perceive it
- Handle religious artefacts in a way that is respectful and indicates a growing awareness of their importance for believers

The Legal Requirements

R.E. in St Michael's federation is taught in accordance with the requirements of the Shropshire Agreed Syllabus and advice from the Diocese of Hereford.

This requires us to:

- Develop an awareness that many people believe human life depends upon an ultimate being or a sustaining creative power often referred to as God of spiritual dimension to life
- Develop an awareness, understanding and appreciation of the broad religious, spiritual and ethical heritage of their immediate and global communities
- Reflect upon the experiences and the mysteries of life and to recognise the significance of awe and wonder in religious belief

The Conscience Clause

- We recognise that all parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education. A statement to this effect is included on the school website.
- We also recognise that on grounds of conscience all staff have the right not to teach religious education. In this event the Head teacher would make arrangements for the teaching of RE to continue.

Withdrawal

- Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

The organisation of RE across the Federation

The governing body has adopted the "Telford and Wrekin SACRE RE Scheme of Work" There is a rolling curriculum plan for Religious Education for the Federation; taken from this document accommodating our mixed age and whole key stage classes.

Religious Education is taught for an hour each week in each KS1 and KS2 class. In the EYFS class and Nursery objectives are taken from the PSED, Communication, language and literacy and Understanding of the World areas of the EYFS framework. The continuous environment provision demonstrates our ethos of Christian care and concern. Within the EYFS curriculum every opportunity is taken to include reference to bible stories and develop the children's social and emotional skills.

A Christian value is chosen each term to focus on and work in RE, and in our acts of worship, is linked to other subjects in the curriculum so values can be further explored and applied across the curriculum. In particular links are made with the expressive arts such as art and design, drama, creative writing, music and dance.

RE lessons are monitored by the Headteacher and foundation governors. The development of RE and acts of worship is over seen by the School Improvement Committee. They then report back to full governors

November 2015

During the first terms of the new Federation the two schools have been working closely together and are developing a joint rolling plan for the teaching of RE across the schools based on the Shropshire agreed syllabus, linking into the cross curricula planning and taking account of important moments in the church calendar and world events and celebrations. There will be a four year rolling plan for KS2 and a two year rolling plan for KS1.

This planning will also allow for children's ideas and responses to be explored and developed as children question the values of the world around them and explore their own feelings. In the Nursery and Reception the children will explore and discover the awe and wonder of the natural world around them learn to work and play together and begin to celebrate the cultures of those around them and the wider world. The new EYFS framework will be statutory from September and sections that are particularly relevant will be contained within "Personal, Social and emotional development" and the "Understanding of the World"

RE will be taught each week on a Monday afternoon and will link with work in the creative arts in particular- using drama, story, art and music as stimuli for developing interesting sessions. This will also link with the PSHE curriculum and allow for ideas to be developed, discussed and built upon throughout the school week. Links will also be made within the daily acts of worship.

The assessment of RE will be through observations and reflections made of and by the children and the work that they produce that displays their developing spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

RE and Act of Worship Policy June 2012

To be reviewed November 2014