

# Collective Worship

## Rationale

The Education Reform Act 1988 states: "The educational curriculum should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils and of society"

A daily act of collective worship is an important means of developing the spiritual and moral aspects of school life. The worship is non-denominational, but is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the traditions of Christian belief. It should promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires that every maintained school include provision for a daily act of worship at the school. The rights of parents to withdraw their children from the act of collective worship is an integral part of the Education Act (1988). Any parent who wishes to exercise this right may do so in consultation with the Headteacher. Staff employed by the school may also withdraw from acts of collective worship.

Ideally, the act of worship should encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that all who take part may feel involved. It both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the school. In particular it develops a feeling of belonging to a community, which is essential for personal development and physical growth.

## Aims

Through the daily act of collective worship we aim to:

Provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere

Create a sense of school identity and of belonging to a school community which shares common experiences;

Encompass all aspects of school life, all curriculum areas and reflect the school's ethos;

Show children that we are members of a wider community, both local and global;

Encourage a care and concern for others in society and the natural world;

Help children think about a wide variety of ideas and dimensions of life, including the spiritual, ritual, wonderful, joyful, tragic, sorrowful, solemn and humorous.

## Approaches

In acts of worship we should ensure that:

The purpose of the act of worship is clear to all present;

Themes are developed effectively on a half-termly basis;

Artefacts, visual aids or other foci of interest are used where appropriate;  
 Opportunities are given for prayer, reflection and quiet;  
 The occasion engenders an atmosphere conducive to worship;  
 There is a balance between music, speech and silence;  
 Children are actively involved as much as possible;  
 Subject matter is appropriate to the age and experience of children;

## Planning and Implementation

The organisation of collective worship may vary from time to time, but its current basic pattern is shown below:

	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Monday	Whole School Assembly led by the Head.	
Tuesday	Assembly led by KS1 teachers in rotation.	Longer assembly led by the Head
Wednesday	Assembly led by the Head.	Assembly led by KS2 Team Leader
Thursday	Hymn practice Assembly	Hymn practise Assembly
Friday	Celebration Assembly led by KS1 teachers in rotation	Class Assembly led by KS2 teachers in rotation, children involved.

Themes for assemblies are planned by the Headteacher, involving different members of staff as appropriate (i.e. Class assemblies reflect topic work done in class during the term, with hymns and prayers appropriate to their focus. Hymn practice assemblies reflect the songs and hymns chosen to accompany the various themes).

Singing and music are important elements within our collective worship. Music chosen by both staff and children should be included in each act of worship. Children and staff who play instruments are encouraged to use their skills to accompany the singing of hymns.

Collective worship takes place in school, but for a small number of festivals and special occasions, it takes place in other churches within the local community.

## Resources

A variety of resources exist within school to help in the planning of themes. These are kept with the RE Resources and in the Headteacher's office.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The monitoring and evaluation of this policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher who should monitor and evaluate the success of acts of collective worship through:

Regular discussions with staff and children as to the relevance and impact of Collective Worship;

Regular observation of and participation in Collective Worship to assess children's involvement and response and appropriateness of content and presentation;

Identification of any relevant training needs amongst staff;

Regular monitoring and development of resources;

Checking that appropriate opportunities to raise multicultural, equal opportunities and gender issues are created and taken;

Ensuring that the legal requirements for Collective Worship are being met.

Reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

A record of collective worship themes, resources and activities used is maintained to show the range of topics covered throughout a term. This is kept pinned to the assembly noticeboard at the back of the hall. Past years are kept by the Headteacher.

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