



Collective Worship Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

The purpose of Collective Worship is:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs and those of others;
- to foster a tolerance of the beliefs of others;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. These form parts of each assembly, which can be either whole phase or separate Foundation Phase/Key Stage 2 with some class Collective Worship sessions. We conduct

Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in a respectful manner. We encourage them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. The head teacher and other members of staff conduct Collective Worship on a rota basis. Sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups lead our worship.

We take the themes of our Collective Worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our Collective Worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Our Collective Worship sessions reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in Collective Worship through, drama, singing, reflection and questioning. The themes of the Worship are based on our successful Values Education programme; each month there is a new value explored. Collective Worship can also offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. We aim to promote the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Parents and governors are invited into the school for class assemblies and for any special occasions. These are usually followed by a coffee morning where we promote partnership work.

Right of Withdrawal.

We encourage all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

Signed

Chair of Governors