

Collective Acts of Worship policy

Introduction

The Collective Worship Policy at The Meadows Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by Futura Learning Partnership and SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, and in recognition of the fact that some of our pupils are practising members of other faiths or from families with no faith, we base our assemblies on broadly Christian teaching with acknowledgement of significant days or events in other faiths.

The collective worship policy of The Meadows Primary School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed on the school website. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the beliefs of all members of the school.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on School Values, SEAL themes, common concerns, issues and interests. 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.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the school:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of The Meadows Primary School and it is our aim that it is time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievements and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

For the pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupils as a “whole” person by providing opportunities to:

- Reflect on values
- Consider multicultural, spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reflect on the direction of their lives
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate and respond
- Reflect on what it means to be human
- Consider the wonders and concerns of the world

The contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in The Meadows Primary School, collective worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides 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" on their own level.

The management of Collective Worship

The Deputy Headteacher will be responsible for the planning, monitoring and evaluating acts of Collective worship.

The organisation of collective worship

Collective worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or classroom.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 -20 minutes although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies, class story sessions, RE and PSHE lessons.

Leadership

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year e.g. visits from the Churches Together team over the school year.

Planning Acts 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.

Termly timetables list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. These plans will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/ method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection, prayer or meditation. As a community school, we do not say prayers as a matter of course.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as acts of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements can be made preceding or following the act of worship but with a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a sensitive and inclusive manner as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. There is no requirement for children to 'worship' in a religious sense. A parent may request to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. The head teacher will offer a meeting to discuss requests of this nature.

Reviewed: February 2022

Next Review: February 2025