



Penns Primary School COLLECTIVE WORSHIP Policy

Collective Worship

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- worship God if they wish
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs and those of others
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- participate, where possible, and respond
- reflect
- develop a wider understanding of the world around them
- foster self esteem through celebrating a range of achievements
- value everyone's cultural origins

2. THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- All pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents) must take part in an act of collective worship every day.
- There may be a single act of collective worship through a whole school assembly or separate acts for pupils in different age groups and school groups. These can be held at any point during the school day.
- The head teacher is, after consultation with the governing body, responsible for arranging daily collective worship.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, taken over the school term, the majority of collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- Collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and abilities of the pupils.
- Acts of collective worship should take place on the school premises.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from any or all acts of collective worship.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold daily acts of collective worship. This may take the form of whole school assemblies, class assemblies, singing together, stories or reflection in the classroom. The act may include the consideration of different morals, language or music, and this may result in a consideration or reflection of different types of collective participation and possibly a collective understanding of citizenship.

3.2 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, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer or reflections. We create



an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the head teacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by outside visitors (e.g. Four Oaks Assembly Group, Kids UK, Childline).

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Our assemblies also promote British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. In celebrating and educating pupils about world faiths and other religious traditions we seek to build mutual respect and tolerance and prevent narrow and extremist views. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Penns School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies. Award assemblies include:

Merit	Governors' Award	Subject Awards
Child of the Term	Lunchtime Behaviour	Sporting Achievements
Child of the Year	Golden letter	Attendance Awards

3.6 Each week parents are invited to attend Merit Assemblies for their child. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements. Parents are also invited to Class assemblies and music performance assemblies.

3.7 Pupil Participation. We encourage pupil participation in all assemblies where appropriate. Every child takes part in a class assembly once a year. Each class has a class charity which they promote through an assembly. Pupils groups within school also take assemblies e.g. School Council and Peer Mediators. Pupils receiving music tuition also perform in assemblies each term.

3.8 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome. A Governors' Award is presented by the Chair of governors each year to two Year 6 pupils who have epitomised the Penns' ethos throughout their time at Penns.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The head teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Signed:

Date:

