

OAKWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

“committed to the safety and welfare of its pupils”

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction:

The community of Oakworth and the wider Keighley region is rich in its breadth of religious traditions. Many faiths are represented within the Bradford area. The school has due regard to the East Riding SACRE Agreed Syllabus 2016.

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship;
- to teach children how to worship.
- to reinforce children’s consideration of spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;

2 Collective worship

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

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’ that is ‘reflecting’ the broad traditions of Christian belief. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school, including stories, etc. from other faiths and beliefs.

2.3 We also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

2.4 In line with the DfE circular 1994, each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent/carers/carers (School Standards and Framework Act.1998.)

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We may hold a collective worship at significant times such as Christmas or Easter or monthly when a religious visitor comes into School.

3.2 We conduct these special assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a distinct 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 ask them if they would like to participate fully in prayers. 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 Headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.
- 3.4 We take the majority of the themes for our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar and the calendars from other faiths. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.
- 3.5 Our assemblies celebrate the achievements and learning of the children. 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. Oakworth Primary School has many successes to celebrate, and we shall continue to do so for all our children in a range of assemblies.
- 3.6 Once a year each year group hosts a particular assembly that parent/carers are invited to attend. 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.
- 3.7 Governors are always welcome at our assemblies.

4 Guest Speakers

- 4.1 The guest speaker will be spoken to and made aware that there must be no statements which might cause offence to others, or otherwise undermine tolerance of other faiths or beliefs; and there must be no extremist material. There should be an understanding that talks and presentations will not be used to raise funds, without the prior permission of the Headteacher.
- 4.2 Guest speakers should promote equality and good community relations and avoid discrimination against anyone for reasons of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation or socio-economic circumstances.

5 Right of withdrawal

- 5.1 Any parent/carers 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. Parent/carers 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.
- 5.2 Teachers also have the right to withdraw.

6 Ofsted Subject Survey Visits

- 6.1 These apply to Oakworth School and follow the same format as those of maintained schools. Judgements about RE are made in relation to the requirements which are applied to RE in the funding agreement.



7 Monitoring and review

- 7.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the responsibility of the whole School Leadership Team.
- 7.2 This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if deemed necessary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. ...', is written over a dotted line.

Signed Date 24 November 2017
Chair of Governors