

Saltersgate Junior School



Collective Worship Policy

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY:

MRS M E OXER: HEADTEACHER
Mrs A Webber: CHAIR OF
GOVERNORS

Revision Date	Revision Version	Previous Revision Date	Previous Version	Summary of Changes
30/11/09				
04/04/11	1	30/11/09		None
12/02/13	2	04/04/11	1	None
Spring 2015	3	12/02/13	2	None
Spring 2018	4	Spring 2015	3	Governor Change

BACKGROUND TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT OUR SCHOOL

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils".

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Parents of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

VALUES AND AIMS

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus

- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

OBJECTIVES

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life - the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn.....
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to provide opportunities for discussion and reflection. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together, as a class, key stage or whole school 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 may 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. Parents and representatives from other faiths represented in school visit us.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school and this forms part of each assembly. It may include music, song, stories, shared experiences, readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection.

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 and to listen carefully.

We take the theme of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Our Collective Worship involves choosing from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence

- Visitors

Success Criteria:

At this school evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- A sense of occasion
- Good order
- Staff affirmation
- A sense of challenge
- Enrichment of pupil's experience

Further opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder are provided in curriculum areas such as R.E., Literacy, Art, Science, PSHE&C and Music.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Saltergate Junior School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in our assemblies.

We invite parents to a celebration assembly every half term as part of our Cornerstones Curriculum. We encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. Parents

and friends are further invited to our many special assemblies such as Christingle, Leavers assembly, some of which take place in St Leonards and St Judes Church.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. 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 headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion and valued feedback from parents and visitors. It is the role of the named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

NB

Adhering to the school's Inclusion Policy is paramount within all curricular and extra curricular areas. Every effort will be made to ensure that any specific actions appropriate to the individual will be arranged.

Children who withdraw from collective worship

Sept 2010-July 2011 - 1 child

Sept 2011-July 2012 - none

Sept 2012-July 2013 - none

Sept 2013-July 2014- none

Sept 2014-July 2015 - none