

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

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 within the school and wider community

Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday 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

Provide an opportunity for the children to worship God

Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues

Enable children to explore their own beliefs and the beliefs of others

Encourage participation and response

Develop in children a sense of community spirit

Ensure that children develop a sensitive understanding of wider community issues such as British Values and Prevent

Embed our key principles through recital of our school prayer

2 Collective worship

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". We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

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. We expect everyone to take an active part in the 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 normally 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.

Drighlington Primary School Collective Worship Policy

3 Organization of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes place in different forms. 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 to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and song. We often create an appropriate atmosphere by using music.

We take some of the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Themes of our assemblies also reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of weekly themes that are supported by the whole school through our Care, think and learn statements.

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.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by talking to other children and raising issues that they have discussed. Assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to celebration assembly on a weekly basis and 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. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4 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.

Reviewed by Governors 26.3.18