



Collective Worship Policy

Revised: January 2019
Review date: January 2020

Signed: _____

Chair of Governors

Signed: _____

Headteacher

Joydens Wood Junior School

Collective Worship Policy

Statutory duty and Rationale

It is a legal requirement under the 1988 Education Reform Act that all schools perform a daily act of collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature without being denominational. All children should be involved in the daily act of worship unless withdrawn by their parent or guardian.

Parents 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 must inform the Headteacher in writing of their wish to withdraw their child from collective worship but do not have to give reasons for their request. Teachers also have the right of withdrawal from collective worship.

Collective worship should be regarded as a special experience, separate from the children's everyday experiences. It can therefore be interpreted very openly and widely as an act which brings a school group to a point where they are able to make a shared, reflective response to a divine being, power, ideal or value of some worth, mainly within the broad traditions of Christian belief on the majority of occasions. Collective worship is not only educational but also spiritual. It widens children's knowledge of the world and gives time for contemplating with reverence and awe the meaning and mystery of human life.

As a multi faith and multi ethnic inclusive school we regard collective worship as the joining together of all the people in our school, regardless of their individual beliefs or non-beliefs to celebrate events and achievements felt to be 'of worth'. Collective worship is an important part of our broad, balanced and creative curriculum and supports our belief that 'every person matters'. Our collective worship regularly incorporates music and time for reflection.

Aims

Through our collective worship we aim to:

- celebrate those things that we feel are of worth to individual pupils, the school and the community as a whole
- Embed our school vision and values
- introduce children to a variety of faiths, showing some children what it is to worship while reaffirming the beliefs of others
- promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils as required by the Education Reform Act 1988
- promote the social and cultural development of the children

The Content of School Worship

Most acts of worship will be of a broadly Christian nature. They will reflect the Christian Church calendar the festivals and particular occasions, and thus ensure variety and relevance.

In broad terms emphasis will be on:

Christian beliefs and values
World faiths
Moral issues
Celebration of children's achievements
The five strands of Every Child Matters.

A variety of methods will be used to conduct collective worship including:

Music
Stories
Poems
Pupil presentations
Visitors
Drama
Quiet times
Singing

The Contribution of Collective Worship to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

One of the key aims of our collective worship is to offer pupils opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through:

- the celebration of special achievements
- guided reflection
- consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings
- appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and which contribute to a sense of awe and wonder
- Moral Development is promoted by:
 - consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
 - consideration of relationships
 - encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives
- Social Development is promoted by:
 - coming together as a school/class group
 - bringing visitors into school from the community
 - sharing values and matters of concern
- Cultural Development is promoted by:
 - using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
 - exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture

Resources

Resources for collective worship are stored in the Resources Room with the RE resources.

Staff can also use resources from the internet and all curriculum areas such as Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Morning assemblies take place at 9.00am on a Tuesday and Thursday (Singing Assembly). Each class will take one assembly each year, based on learning that they are doing in class, parents are invited to these. Each term Rev Ren will visit. This assembly will take place on a Monday morning.

Friday assemblies will take place at the end of the day – 2.30 – 3.15pm. This will be a Golden Assembly when each class teacher must nominate a star of the week. This certificate should be written by the class teacher and handed to the office by Friday lunchtime. Once a term our Friday assembly will be dedicated to our Value Assembly when parents will be invited.

We regard assemblies as special times and expect everyone to be respectful, quiet and reflective.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is a regular and ongoing process, with those responsible being the Headteacher, and members of the Senior Management Team, as well as the school governors. Any of the above individuals may attend assemblies in rotation and evaluate and discuss any issues that arise with the staff and/or the person leading the collective worship.

Evaluation strategies currently used by the above include:

Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions.

Classroom feedback from pupils, written and/or verbal.

Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another.