



Collective Worship Policy

Created: January 2016

Reviewed: October 2019

Next Review: October 2022

Rationale

This policy has been written with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with Bradford SACRE's and Education Bradford's Diversity and Cohesion Team's guidance for Collective Worship.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

- To reflect the requirements of the 1988 Education Act
- To outline our intent to Worship
- To provide guidance to staff
- To make Collective Worship a very real part of the Curriculum

Aims

- To allow children to express their faith (if appropriate) and explore their own beliefs in a school setting.
- To encourage all young people, whether or not they belong to a faith, to increase their sensitivity to the mysteries of life and to provide opportunities to reflect upon these mysteries and the fundamental questions of existence.
- To provide opportunities for celebration, thanksgiving and the sharing of experiences and emotions (e.g. joy, hope, friendship, fear, anguish, forgiveness)
- To provide an opportunity to worship God
- To foster feelings of awe, wonder and mystery
- To develop an appreciation of the infinite variety in the natural world.
- To understand the need for stewardship for the planet through exploring issues of conservation and environmental responsibility
- To encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.
- To foster a sense of community and fellowship, a cohesive experience, bringing pupils together to celebrate the shared values of the school and community.
- To foster self-understanding and empathy for others.
- To share successes in school, personal and community life.

Guidelines

- Collective worship will take place daily at clearly designated times, in the hall, shared areas or individual classrooms.
- Act of worship may be whole school, key stage or class-based.
- Collective Worship should last approximately 15 to 20 minutes (some of this time may be used to explore the chosen music).
- Worship should have a clear beginning and end
- Worship should be distinct from administration – it is not just “Assembly”.
- Any member of staff may lead worship, but the major responsibility lies with the Headteacher who will provide a thematic approach for daily worship. The themes will be designed to enable teachers to do follow-up work in classrooms at an age-appropriate level.
- Local clergy and other visitors will also lead worship on a regular or occasional basis.

- Music played on entry and exit, a lighted candle, hymn singing, the use of prayers, etc. provide a ritual element which allows pupils to benefit from the security and pattern of worshipping together and create a sense of occasion. These should be prepared in advance so the act of worship runs smoothly.
- Pupils will be kept involved wherever possible through imaginative ways of communicating ideas, by challenging them and by encouraging them to respond to worship.
- Opportunities will be provided for pupils to take part in the planning and presentation of assemblies on occasions.
- Worship works best when a variety of experiences are provided.
- Worship should always include time for reflection; a time of silence may be no less spiritual than a spoken prayer.

The content of Collective Worship will be designed to meet the stated aims.

Acts of collective worship will reflect Christian belief and promote a positive ethos and community values. They will draw on the values and traditions of other religions as appropriate, helping to promote confidence in a pupil's own traditions and the ability to see value in the traditions of others.

Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs which are contrary to their family background and acts of worship will not assume a shared religious commitment.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from all, or part, of Collective Worship. It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case arrangements will be made to supervise any such child who will be provided with a suitable age-appropriate task to complete.