



Collective Worship Policy

"One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvellous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. "

(Albert Einstein)

"Wonder is the beginning of wisdom. "

(Greek proverb)

Rationale

We believe that a daily act of collective worship can add value to the education process.

In recognising worship to be a celebration of things of worth we plan delivery carefully to ensure questions or issues raised can be responded to inclusively but differently.

Purposes

- To bring pupils together, to develop a spirit of community and promote a common ethos and shared values
- To develop pupils' spirituality
- To provide opportunities to experience awe and wonder
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them
- To provide an opportunity for children to explore their own beliefs and the beliefs of others
- To create an atmosphere where those who wish to worship are able to do so
- To give time for silent reflection
- To celebrate all that is good about life - our school, local community and natural surroundings etc...

Guidelines

In keeping with the legal requirements, worship is of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief. However, we invite participation irrespective of personal commitment. For some, worship will be a response to the religious dimension. For others, it will be a response to the values which are presented. The content needs to be carefully and sensitively planned to allow for inclusion and open, personal response to the message delivered.

Three guiding principles enable us to provide worship which enriches the life of the school:

- Worship is as inclusive as possible
- Worship is educational
- Worship is spiritual

Furthermore:

- Themes for the term are planned in advance and made known to staff
- The content is relevant and meaningful
- Care is taken with the language that is used e.g. not using "we" or "they" when referring to particular groups
- CW sessions should end with a short time of contemplation or prayer. In the case of prayer, children are asked to listen and reflect while the prayer is being said and join in with the Amen if they wish.
- Collective Worship reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community
- There are links with RE and PSHE
- Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. It is hoped that the nature of our Collective Worship will not lead parents to want to withdraw children.

NB: Collective worship is not the same as corporate worship. Corporate worship is the worship of people who have a common understanding of what worship includes and who share the same beliefs. A community school is not a worshipping community as the pupils who have a faith are diverse in what they believe, in what they believe God is and what they believe worship to that God or Gods should entail. It also includes atheists and agnostics.

Responsibilities

- The Head Teacher, in consultation with the RE leader, is responsible for deciding the themes/foci for collective worship
- Children who are withdrawn are the responsibility of school staff
- Teachers have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship but may be directed to other tasks by the Head teacher
- It is the responsibility of the teaching staff to make themselves familiar with this policy and to ensure appropriate opportunities are given for its delivery.
- It is the responsibility of the Head teacher to implement the CW policy consistently throughout the school, and to report to Governors on the effectiveness of the policy. The Head teacher supports the staff in the implementation of the policy.
- The Governing Body has the responsibility for agreeing this policy, monitoring its success and for supporting the Head teacher in carrying it out.

Reviewed: Term 2 2017-18