

Holymead Primary School

Collective Worship Policy 2015

Rationale

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation by providing as many acts of worship as practically possible.

Collective worship should offer pupils opportunities to:

- explore and share beliefs
- consider the importance of prayer
- experience meditation and silence
- consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives
- think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community
- appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- provoke thought as well as a developing sense of wonder
- enquire about the world

Collective Worship also offers an opportunity to reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate the various achievements of members of the community that are held to be of worth, which will help to promote community cohesion.

Definition

Collective Worship is an opportunity for a group of children and staff to gather to consider a specific subject, which fulfils the statutory requirements. Although it is not worship in the sense in which a religious community would conduct itself where beliefs are shared, it should be a worshipful occasion where teachers and children share concerns and experiences, and affirm beliefs and values.

Acts of Collective Worship will take into account the children's ages, aptitudes and family background.

Aims/Purposes

Taken from the 2002 Bristol Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

- To celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- To contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- To evoke feelings of wonder, awe, curiosity and empathy.
- To enable pupils to understand the nature of religion and what it would mean to take faith in that religion seriously.
- To allow pupils to reflect on and respond to the spiritual dimension of experience.
- To develop respect and knowledge and understanding of religion, cultures and beliefs.
- To allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- To provide a format to ensure that a wide range of opportunities are offered to the children.
- To provide parents and governors with a clear guideline of the content and approach to our assemblies.
- To provide a framework which will hopefully ensure that all children are able to attend most assemblies.
- To make explicit the areas we would wish to develop in our children.
- To ensure that statutory requirements are fulfilled.

Guidelines

- Assemblies will follow the programme for Collective Worship in the Schemes of Work document. This is supplemented by relevant materials set out by the PSHE scheme of work and the Rights, Respecting Schools (RRS) overview. KS2 will also cover aspects of Life Skills.
- Assemblies will be a mix of staff/child led and participatory events.
- Parents and carers will be invited in to celebrate class assemblies.
- Members of the wider community are welcomed in to school to share their knowledge and beliefs.
- Parents may choose to remove their children from Collective Worship after discussion with the head about the content of assemblies.
- All staff have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship may either be for whole school, key stage, year group or class.
- It is not the role of Collective Worship to engender belief. Therefore when talking about religions it is important to state:
Christians / Hindus believe that.....
A child may of course wish to state "I believe....." But this does not insist that other children believe.

Each class leads an assembly once a year for parents/carers/governors to attend.

Prayer and reflection:

The focus of an assembly can be encapsulated in a prayer or time for reflection. Children should, on occasions, be guided to be still, quiet and to discover their deeper self and to think on the issues of the assembly.

Being part of the RE policy Collective Worship will cover:

Explicit features of religion and their world

Implicit features of inner feelings, experiences, thoughts and questions

Monitoring and review

The governors will be involved in the monitoring and review of the scheme of work for Collective Worship.

This policy, SEAL and RRS documents and the programme for Collective Worship will be reviewed after 2 years or earlier if statutory requirements necessitate.

Conclusion: Assemblies will reflect the multi faiths present in our society. This policy is closely linked to the school's RE, PSHE and Behaviour policies.

Reviewed: October 2015

Next review: October 2017



Article 14: (freedom of thought, belief and religion). Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights of parents to give their children guidance about this right

