



Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

“Collective Worship in schools is to do with the fundamental recognition of worth and worthiness. It is concerned with ultimate questions and values. It is about identifying, affirming and celebrating those ideals and values held to be of central importance in the worshipping community. Through reflection and response, it should be an important stimulus towards spiritual development. For many, but not all, spirituality finds its most comfortable expression within the context of belief in God.” Source: North Somerset SACRE

Aims of Collective Worship

- To provide opportunity for an experience of worship
- To reflect on the values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding

Objectives of Collective Worship

Collective worship in Holbrook Primary School should provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship
- Reflect on moral issues
- Explore beliefs
- Experience a sense of wonder
- Experience common prayer
- Have a time for reflection and self-awareness
- Have time to express their own feelings
- Develop a recognition of a Supreme Being and an awareness of religion
- Build a sense of community
- Make links with the wider community
- Celebrate joys and sorrows
- Develop an appreciation of other
- Develop collegiate responsibility
- Have opportunities to raise moral issues
- Experience and develop an awareness of different religions and cultures
- Value and celebrate minority cultures
- Develop knowledge of culture (i.e. composer of the week)

Principles of Assembly/Collective Worship

Assemblies should

- Be inclusive
- Relate to the pupils own experience
- Be relevant to pupil concerns
- Acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants
- Match the needs of pupils
- Foster a sense of community
- Be learning experiences
- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school

Implementation

1. Collective Worship/Assemblies will take place on a daily basis at a time agreed by the teaching staff and included in the weekly timetable.
2. Assemblies will take different forms
 - Whole school
 - Key Stage
 - Singing and hymn practice
 - Celebratory : individual and class successes
3. Assemblies will be led by different members of staff
 - Headteacher
 - SLT
 - Other members of staff
 - Local vicar
 - Visiting speakers or groups, e.g. Maranatha Church
4. There may be times when assemblies are held in individual classrooms.
5. Assemblies are arranged to develop a sense of occasion
 - Children are expected to enter and leave quietly
 - While the children are in the hall they sit in class groups on the floor
 - Music, from a different country or culture, is played at the start and end of assembly as part of our work on the International Dimension
 - A hymn or appropriate song, relevant to the assembly, is sung

Planning

1. Themes will be agreed and communicated to teachers a term in advance and may be linked to: religious events; special events; key moments in the life of the school; topics and class based learning; SEAL themes.
2. In school there is much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope and request and we will place these as high priorities. Time in the week will be made for these purposes.

3. Assemblies will be planned so that children can reflect on matters of importance and respond through a variety of ways, e.g. songs, music making, hymns, drama, role play, the visual arts, silent thought, prayer and discussion.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their Child from acts of worship. Parents will be reminded of this right through the prospectus. Arrangements will be made for children who have been withdrawn from collective worship to be supervised in another part of the school.

Conclusion

This policy should be considered alongside other relevant policies. It will be reviewed by the governing body as part of its schedule of policy review.