

Collective Worship Policy



Bishop Road Primary School

Adopted by: Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee

Adopted: March 2019

Review: March 2021

- This policy has been written with consideration of with the following school policies: Curriculum, Anti-Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy , Visitors, Safeguarding and the school Equalities Plan

Rationale

At Bishop Road Primary School we believe in developing children to their full potential. We wish to ensure children have positive self-esteem and develop an understanding of their role in contributing to the world, both within the school and the wider community.

Collective Worship offers pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs; to consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence; to consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives; to think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community and to appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them.

Collective Worship also offers an opportunity to re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of our school. It provides a time to celebrate the various achievements of our community that we hold to be of worth.

Aims

1. To provide opportunities for all pupils to participate both actively and passively in daily acts of Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988.
2. To provide opportunities for awareness, celebration and reflection.
3. To explore what in human experience is ultimately worthwhile and valuable, remembering that the word 'worship' can be defined as 'giving worth'.
4. To develop in all pupils:
 - a sense of awe, wonder and mystery;
 - a sense of transience and constant change; a sense of pattern, order and purpose;
 - an awareness of, and relationship with the natural and the created world;
 - an awareness of personal worth, uniqueness and identity;
 - an awareness of others as thinking, feeling persons;
 - an awareness of community, and its rituals and celebrations
 - an awareness of achievement, celebration and joy;
 - an awareness of loss, sadness and suffering;
 - an awareness that life involves choices

Guidelines

The Education Reform Act requires that every child should experience a daily act of Collective Worship, in addition to any non-religious assemblies, and that the majority of acts be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Our arrangements for Collective Worship are as follows:

- Acts take place at an agreed time within the practical timetable of the school.

- Children are arranged in different groupings according to the nature of the act, the groupings being age groups, phase groups, family groups (mix of classes across year groups) and classes. Other groupings may be arranged for special occasions.
- All members of staff are encouraged to lead acts on a voluntary basis. In addition, outside visitors, will be invited to lead acts, having first been made aware of the school policies on Collective Worship and Religious Education as appropriate.
- Acts are planned from a collection of appropriate themes with resources, which are suitable for the whole school. A simple record sheet is kept for reference.
- Parents may withdraw their children from the daily act of Collective Worship, and teachers may also opt out of participating, but we hope that the inclusive nature of our acts of worship allow all the school community to feel able to join in.

An act of Collective Worship is considered to be of a broadly Christian character if it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular denomination, concepts that reflect these broad traditions of Christian belief include: love, compassion, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage, integrity, respect for life, responsibility for our universe, value of all individuals, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Children are encouraged to respond in a wide variety of ways to these themes, in the manner which is personally appropriate to them. Responses could range from awareness, interest and appreciation to commitment, devotion and adoration. Worship may take many forms. In addition to traditional prayer, hymn singing and readings, worship might comprise reflection, questioning, responding to a challenge, active exploration through work, celebration of learning and learning from the experience of others.

Our acts of Collective Worship:

- will last about twenty minutes.
- children are expected to enter and leave quietly, and to sit and behave in such a way as to enable themselves and others to participate fully, either actively or passively.

The theme for Collective Worship will be introduced on Mondays together with ideas on how children might develop the theme through their daily acts of Collective Worship. The theme may be introduced through:

a story, poem or piece of literature, religious or secular:

- a picture, poster, slide or object of beauty;
- a reflection on a local, national or international event;
- a personal account or experience,
- a relevant festival, religious day or celebration;
- dance drama, a song or music;

- a display of artifacts;
- audio–visual aids,

The act of Collective Worship may include opportunities for children to share how they have developed a theme.

During the act children will be given the opportunity to contribute to and reflect on the content of the worship, this contribution may include: sharing their views and experiences;

- participation in a quiet, creative activity:
- silent reflection, or prayer.

If a prayer is used, we will ask all children to listen to and consider the meaning of the prayer, encouraging those who wish to join in to do so.

Conclusion

Collective Worship is a time when all may make a contribution and explore and celebrate the things we believe to be fundamentally important to the human spirit, in the hope that pupils will be led from the trivial and the immediate and the local, to the significant, the enduring and the universal. (John Hull ‘Worship and the Curriculum’)

Evaluation

This Policy was first presented in draft form in January 1995. The Policy will be evaluated and reviewed every two years.