



Collective Worship Policy

Revised March 2015

Signed.....COG
.....HEAD

Next review March 2018

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy is carried out within the context of the school's Mission Statement.

Definitions

"Collective Worship is a gathering of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment"

"Worship in school should encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the world and its peoples"

Collective Worship at Chesterton CE Primary School enables the school as a whole, to experience the mystery and wonder of life and the world. It promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and involves both children and adults in responding to wonder, awe, mystery, celebration, reverence, reflection, fellowship, awareness, thanksgiving and praise. The worship is mainly Anglican but children from non - Christian families have the opportunity to reflect or worship God in their own way.

We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not the same thing- School Assembly is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

Aims

- To encourage a sense of Awe and Wonder, and foster a respect for the world, its peoples and their Faiths.
- To create an atmosphere in which those who wish to can pray, reflect or meditate and worship God.
- To develop a sense of fellowship and community by bringing everyone together and encouraging active participation wherever possible.
- To encourage many forms of communication and expression including music, singing, prayer, rituals, story, poems, drama, dance, symbol etc.
- To enable children to learn from Christianity, and other Faiths in a way that promotes their spiritual, moral, spiritual and cultural development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires "the arrangements for the collective act of worship be made by the governors after consultation with the Headteacher". The act specifies that "All pupils in attendance shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship" unless parents request that they are excused. We wish to encourage all the children and staff to take part in collective worship by providing an assembly each day, which is central to the life of the school.

Guidelines

Chesterton Primary School is a Church of England aided school. We use the village church for occasional acts of Collective Worship and for Religious Education. Otherwise collective worship takes place in school. The school has pupils from a variety of religious or non-religious backgrounds and the staff are sensitive to the needs of children from different faiths. It is the governors'

intention that acts of worship should provide the opportunity for sharing and celebration between pupils of all backgrounds.

Organisation

1. Monitors from among the older children will set up the hall with benches to be ready for the assembly to begin.
2. Each assembly will start with calming music playing as the children walk in class by class, quiet conversation is allowed.
3. The person leading the assembly will greet the children with 'God is love, all the time, all the time, God is love' and welcome any visitors.
4. A volunteers from among the older children will come to the front and initiate the gathering song and light the candle. Everyone joins in with the gathering song "Light a Candle Flame". This should be a reverent time and a signal to the children that this is special time.
5. At some point during the assembly there will be a song. Often the song will have some connection to the assembly content. We use a digital projector and screen for the words. The songs chosen are generally from Worship Workshop, Come and Praise or one of the "Out of the Ark" books. Singing will be accompanied by backing tracks unless there is a piano player in school.
6. The main body of the assembly will vary from day to day (see below) but there will always be an aspect of children's participation.
7. There will always be a prayer. It is usual that a short prayer is spoken by the leader of the assembly. There are also prayers e.g. the Lord's prayer, said regularly by the children so they begin to know them by heart'. There will always be a moment of quiet, personal reflection linked to the content of the assembly. This may happen before or after the prayer.
8. Any notices or announcements should be kept to a minimum and at the very end. They do not form part of the collective worship.
9. Music is played in a similar way to the beginning of the assembly as the classes walk out silently. The person leading the assembly will signal to each class when it is their turn to get up and leave.
10. Monitors will wait until the last of their class has left the hall before putting the hall back to normal.
11. The Foundation pupils will build up their attendance to whole school collective worship, after the first term, they will attend all worships.

The weekly pattern is as follows:

Day and Time	Organisation	Led by
Monday 10.10 am	Whole school	Headteacher
Tuesday 10.10 am	Whole school	Church & Class teacher
Wednesday Any time	Class Assembly	Class Teacher
Thursday 10.10 am	Whole School (Singing)	Kim Broadhead

Friday	2.30 pm	Sharing/ Well done *	
--------	---------	----------------------	--

* Children from each class get the opportunity to participate in either a sharing or community worship, giving them the opportunity to show the rest of the school examples of their work. We also give out “Well Done” certificates to children who have made significant effort or progress in work, attitude or behaviour, as well as any awards.

From time to time, classes plan and deliver acts of worship that fit in with the current theme.

Assembly, including collective worship, is part of the whole school curriculum and is educational for all members of the school community as follows:

- A basic framework is provided by the cycle of Christian year including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and saints days.
- Collective Worship is planned into themes that can last several weeks or just one week.
- There will be opportunities to celebrate and study other faith festivals e.g. Jewish New Year, Ramadan, Eid, Divali, Chinese New Year etc.
- In addition there are whole school celebrations, some of which take place in the Church, for Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
- Collective worship will include the exploration of silence through stillness and meditation. There will be Christian prayers, although children are given a choice whether to say them. Hymns and songs are chosen from a collection that the children know and are linked to the main theme of the assembly where possible. The Bible and other holy books can be used for drama and story, for providing opportunities for reflection and deeper understanding. Assembly starts and ends with music.
- Assemblies will usually involve the whole school meeting together in the school hall giving children an opportunity to learn how to behave in large social gatherings, how to perform in front of an audience and respond to such a performance.

Resources.

The resources for collective worship are kept in the Headteacher’s office.

Record Keeping and evaluation

The teacher with responsibility for Collective Worship will keep an assembly log and review and evaluate Collective Worship with Foundation Governors as part of the whole school monitoring schedule.