

Collective Worship Policy

Updated :
June 17

Review Date:
June 2019

Staff Responsible: Mr. Garside

PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is a part of the Vale of Evesham School's activities to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every pupil.

AIMS

- * To comply with the legal requirements regarding acts of worship
- * To develop a sense of community
- * To provide a supportive atmosphere for reflection, expression and personal spirituality
- * To strengthen the ethos of the school
- * To celebrate the achievements of the pupils
- * To create an atmosphere where those who wish to worship may do so
- * To help the pupil's search for the meaning and purpose of life
- * To introduce pupils to various aspects (eg, prayer, hymns, drama, art) of religious worship at an appropriate level
- * To include festivals from other faiths as appropriate

Objectives

- * To celebrate individual's and groups' successes
- * To have class assemblies/collective acts of worship taken by class teachers
- * To have department themes in department assemblies
- * To sing appropriate, lively, enjoyable hymns
- * To have prayers, some written and read by pupils
- * To have visiting speakers from different backgrounds
- * To have forms of worship which include dance, drama and singing
- * To listen to Bible stories
- * To celebrate Festivals both Christian and non Christian
- * To create a happy and supportive atmosphere
- * To give opportunities for silent reflection

Statutory Requirements

Collective Worship complies with legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states that 'Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief'. However, it should be 'appropriate having regard for the family background, ages and aptitudes of the pupils' (1988 Act and DfEE Circular 1/94 paragraph 64) 'and to be appropriate for, and should include, all pupils attending a school (54). Therefore an act of worship which is 'broadly Christian' need not contain Christian material only' (DfEE 34). Such beliefs that are broadly Christian are inclusive to other major world faiths. Examples are God, justice, love, peace, good, evil, greed, poverty, charity, pollution, morality, tolerance, co-operation, selfishness, war and prejudice. This broad and flexible approach to collective worship will not affect the integrity of anyone taking part at our school but may develop the spiritual awareness of every individual.

Principles

* Collective Worship occupies an important place within the life of our school. It forms an integral part of our assemblies and it provides an opportunity for all members of the school to stand back from the normal routine of the working day, to gather together in class/department/whole school groups to remind ourselves and to reflect upon those beliefs and values that bind us together as a community

* We accord with the legal requirement to ensure that our Collective Worship broadly Christian in nature, but for those who are not Christians or who have no explicit commitment to a particular faith, we emphasise that it is not our intention to attempt to challenge the integrity of their beliefs. We hope to provide experiences that all can feel encouraged to take part in and to create some opportunities to share in the spiritual values that lie at the heart of what it means to be a thriving human being who lives in a wide range of different communities

* We shall give some insight into the broad based nature of our multi-cultural society, whilst reflecting our own particular cultural traditions

* We believe that there exists an integral relationship between the content and conduct of Collective Worship and the overall ethos of the school: the values that pervade our Collective Worship will be consistent with those found in the daily life of the community

* There is an expectation that all pupils will be present at acts of Collective Worship, but we respect individuals particular religious beliefs. Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from acts of Collective Worship. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act

* The Acts of Worship will take into consideration the wide range of Special Needs within our School. Certain groups and /or individuals may at the discretion of the class teacher be removed from acts of worship or not join in

* In a wider educational context, we hope to celebrate the achievements of all members of our school and use assemblies as occasions when due acknowledgement is given to a range of successes

IMPLEMENTATION AND ORGANISATION

All pupils in all key stages will experience Collective Worship daily. These acts of worship are made up of:

1 Whole School Assembly - Monday

Upper School Assemblies - Friday

Middle School Assembly – Wednesday

Early Years and Key stage 1 Assembly - Thursday

Key Stage 2 Assembly - Friday

During the day there are opportunities for pupils coming together and time for reflection within classes.

A range of people are invited to lead Collective Worship, including speakers from a variety of religions, in house, other schools, visiting clergy, charitable organisations, local community links etc. Over the course of an academic year each class will lead at least one assembly. An assembly rota is drawn up termly and available on the server.

RESOURCES

Throughout the year Assembly topics are covered by the classes which are focused on a range of religions and celebration of a variety of festivals.