



The Orchard Primary School
Nurture Learn Grow

Collective Worship Policy

Date	Review Date		GB Committee
Sept 2019	Sept 2022	HT	Curriculum and Community

Background

This Collective Worship Policy was initiated as a result of the amalgamation of Orchard Infant and Nursery School with Orchard Junior School in September 2008 and was written following discussions with staff and the Governing Body.

Each of the schools had a determination which enabled the acts of worship to reflect a wide range of faiths and traditions. It will be necessary to apply to SACRE for a determination to allow for the acts of worship to continue to be relevant and meet the diverse needs of our community.

Legal Requirements

In accordance with the legal requirements, the school provides a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils. The act of collective worship takes place within an assembly that is part of the secular curriculum or in the classroom. It is understood that staff can withdraw from the act of collective worship but not from the assembly. It is also known that parents/guardians have the right to withdraw their child wholly or partly from collective worship and that they do not have to state their reasons for this.

Following discussion and consideration of the community served by the school the Governing Body agreed that it would apply to the local SACRE for a 'determination' for the whole school. A determination provides an exemption for the whole school from the requirement that the majority of acts of worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'

Collective worship at Orchard Primary School

Collective Worship at our school takes place every day within an assembly as a Key Stage or within the classroom. It plays a major part in establishing and promoting the ethos of the school. It is made to be a special time which is different from the rest of the school day where pupils have the opportunity to reflect and to consider a whole range of issues and feelings. During Collective worship we celebrate diversity also promoting a sense of cohesion, stability and shared values within school.

Aims and Principles

We believe an act of collective worship should aim to:

- Provide opportunities for reflective thought
- Provide the opportunity for the pupils to consider moral and social issues as well as local and world issues
- Encourage pupils to think about their own beliefs and to explore and develop their 'inner self'.
- Encourage respect for the beliefs of others
- Contribute to the positive ethos of the school.
- Celebrate the achievements of others within the school community and instil a sense of pride both individually and collectively.

We acknowledge that the act of collective worship makes a significant contribution to the pupils' moral and spiritual development. We believe it should provide a context within which they can experience feelings such as awe, wonder, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence and also, if appropriate, prayer.

Planning

The school has a termly programme of themes for assemblies and collective worship and these take place as a whole school, in phase groups or in a mixture of year groups. Some of the themes are based on SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning). Assemblies and collective worship are led by senior staff and individual classes as well as by other staff and invited leaders or guests.

Organisation for 2019 / 20

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lowers Years 1-3 10.25	Led by DH	Class based	Led by HT	Class based Or led by class	Led by class (9.15) or Senior teacher Singing: 2.40pm
Uppers Years 3-6 9.05	Led by DH	Class based	Led by HT (2.40pm)	Class based Or led by class	Led by class or senior teacher Singing: 9.05am

In class, pupils are given the opportunity to reflect upon the themes and issues raised in the main assemblies and time is given to discuss these further.

Whole school / Key Stage assembly and collective worship

- Assembly leader will ensure the hall is set up ready for the arrival of the pupils including playing music to create an appropriate atmosphere. (Year 5/6 to provide monitors to assist in setting up chairs etc.)
- Pupils will enter the hall in a calm and quiet manner and they are expected to listen to the music while waiting for everyone to arrive.
- Pupils are expected to sit quietly and listen during the assembly and collective worship.
- Pupils should only be allowed to leave the hall in exceptional circumstances
- It is the responsibility of the staff in attendance at the assembly to ensure that the pupils behave appropriately.
- The assembly may include discussion and a story related to the theme and may also include the pupils in active participation.
- The act of collective worship may be identified in a range of ways including the lighting of a candle, the playing of a piece of music, a period of silence or reflection, singing, dancing or the reading of a poem or prayer.
- Class teachers must ensure appropriate arrangements are made for pupils in their class who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Equal Opportunities

Collective worship is available to all children attending Orchard Primary School and is provided at a level appropriate to the age, ability and experience of the pupils.

The act of worship will

- Be without imposition and allow for freedom of own belief
- Show that diversity within each faith is recognised.
- Use resources which reflect the range of different faiths and communities.

Resources

There is a range of books, posters, music, video and artefacts available to use. A number of specific assembly books are kept in the headteacher's office. An allocation from the budget each financial year will be made to allow for resources to be further developed and replenished.

In using artefacts, staff should always be aware that they do not cause offence to any pupil or adult by the way the artefacts are used or handled.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety issues mainly centre on the use of candles and matches. Every care should be taken to ensure their safe use and the safety of pupils.

Matches are kept in the Headteacher's or Deputy Headteacher's' offices.

Parent and Community Involvement

Parents / guardians are invited to attend assemblies on a regular basis. This gives them the opportunity to share in the way the school celebrates, value the pupils' achievements and helps them to understand the ethos and atmosphere of the school.

Throughout the year the school holds assemblies that acknowledge the major festivals of our faith communities and parents are also invited to attend these.

Parents have the right to request that their child may be excused from collective worship. They are however, encouraged to discuss this with the class teacher and the Headteacher before a final decision to withdraw is made.

The role of the co-ordinator

The school's standard job description for a co-ordinator includes such things as responsibility for implementing and monitoring policy and managing resources. In addition, the co-ordinator for collective worship must

- Establish ways to involve parents, governors and visitors in collective worship
- Draw up a termly Collective Worship programme.

Evaluation and Review

Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion and valued feedback from parents and visitors. Collective Worship will be evaluated at least annually in the Summer Term as part of the whole school and end of year review. Any revisions to its organisation or content will then be agreed and implemented in the new academic year.

Class based collective worship will be monitored through discussion in team meetings and staff meetings with staff working together to ensure quality and consistency.

An application for a Determination will be made in November 2014 and if granted, this will be reviewed every five years.

September 2019