

Whimble Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Introduction

The Collective Worship Policy at Whimble Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, that is, it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. Christians share many beliefs and practices, attitudes and customs with those of other faiths and those of none. It is these broad traditions of belief which underline collective worship at Whimble Primary School.

Through the use of songs, story, drama, dance, prayer, music, readings and silence people may come to a deeper understanding of the spiritual dimension to their lives. They may come to a greater awareness of other people, themselves and their world in the light of which they may go out to live and work in the community.

Worship

It must be recognised that the inward response of each person present constitutes worship and not the repetition of songs and prayers. These may be a vehicle of worship but they are not worship itself. Staff and pupils should be given opportunity to respond in their own way so that no-one is excluded by reason of background, culture, religions or non-religious stance.

Collective worship at Whimble Primary School is for all pupils and staff. It forms either all or a small part of an assembly. Collective Worship has the potential to unite the whole school membership to help develop a sense of community. Collective worship is part of the school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a time to celebrate the worth and value of all in the school community.

Collective worship at Whimble Primary School should comply with DFEE Circular 1/94 "Religious Education and Collective Worship" (and DCSF Religious Education in English School, Non-Statutory Guidance 2010) which states that collective worship:-

- is intended to be such that children from a non-Christian background can take part
- must contain some element which can be related to the Christian tradition
- must accord some special status to the person of Jesus Christ
- must not be denominational
- may contain some non-Christian element

A balance should be sought during any term.

Concepts that are 'broadly Christian' yet common to other major world faiths include: - justice, love, peace, good, evil, greed, poverty, pollution, morality, tolerance, co-operation, selfishness, war, prejudice and forgiveness.

Values we feel are important to our school community include:- respect, trust, fairness, understanding, tolerance, appreciation, responsibility, caring, co-operation, patience, peace, honesty, courage, freedom, quality, friendship, humility, happiness, thoughtfulness.

Such is the scope available to the person leading collective worship. Through themes such as these the spiritual awareness of every individual may be developed. We offer children opportunities to explore and share beliefs, to consider the relevance of ideas, beliefs and values to their own lives and to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a community.

Collective Worship and Assembly

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of collective worship to take place during an assembly. It is a special time for all present to reflect up on their life experiences and to seek awareness to ultimate questions as far as they are able. It is a time when children can celebrate social and academic achievement and to foster positive values held by the school, the local community and the wider world.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Assemblies are held daily during a school week, these include and Achievement, Celebration, Head teachers, singing and class assembly. The timetable for these may vary from week to week. Assemblies celebrate the achievements of individual children in their school work, out of school activities and from home.

The teaching staff and teaching assistants support assemblies on an ongoing basis.

About once a fortnight a group of volunteers from the local church, often including the vicar, lead an 'Open the Book' assembly presenting bible stories using simple props to support them. Outside agencies, charities and individuals including ministers of local churches and leaders of other faiths are invited to take part in school assemblies.

Possible Themes for Assemblies Could Include:

Fundamental British Values; democracy, rule of law, respect and tolerance of others, individual liberty.

Anti-bullying	Charities and charity work
Environmental Issues	Feeling and Emotions
Seal Themes	Friends
Grandparents	Global Citizenship
Golden Rules	Learning/what makes good learning
Love	Morals
New Year/Fresh Starts	Peace
People Who Inspire Us	Poverty
Respect	Rights and Responsibilities
School Council	School Ethos
Patron Saints	Stealing
War	Water
Religious Festivals e.g. Diwali, Eid, Christmas, Easter, Passover etc	