



Collective Worship Policy

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Heacham Junior School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship God
- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

Planning Acts of Worship

The responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the headteacher in consultation with governors.

All pupils should take part in a daily act of worship. This is to take place, as a rule, on school premises.

Collective worship need not take place at the start of the school day and worship may take place in school groups. A school group is defined as 'any group or combination of groups in which people are taught to take part in other school activities'. Assemblies will usually last for 20 minutes, but smaller group assemblies may be shorter, and occasionally assemblies will be of a longer duration.

Content of Collective Worship

The head must seek to be in control of both the nature and the content of acts of worship through her qualified colleagues. The collective worship is to be mainly of a broadly Christian character. The main emphasis should be on the broad traditions of Christian belief; assemblies may reflect aspects of the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus. Any such worship should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. It is not necessary for every act of worship to be of this character but within each school term, the majority must be so. Outside speakers may be invited to present assemblies on pre-determined topics. Assembly Themes will be planned as a whole staff and records kept of assemblies delivered and by whom.

Collective worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- Include a variety of elements at different times
- Involve the pupils.

Right to Withdraw

Arrangements have to take into account the fact that all teachers, including the head and deputy head, have a right to withdraw from collective worship and cannot be directed to attend.

A parent may request that a child should be wholly or partly excused from attending religious worship. A letter stating this requirement should be sent to the headteacher.

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