



Collective Worship Policy

Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-	Denver V. C. Primary School
On:-	25th June 2020
Chair of Governors:-	Amanda Dawson
Last updated:-	November 2013

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy has been drawn up after discussion with Staff and Governors and in accordance with the legal requirements for collective worship.

Aims for worship

Collective worship should aim to:

- Reflect the aims of the school
- Encourage participation and response
- Develop community spirit
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Be related to the day to day aspirations and concerns of the school
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Help pupils explore their own beliefs

Objectives for worship

The objectives of any single act of collective worship should be included in the following list of possible objectives. No one single assembly could satisfy all these objectives so care is taken in planning a balanced programme of collective worship themes for a term in order that all objectives are addressed during the term.

- a) To explore the spiritual dimension
- b) To give memorable and enjoyable experiences, especially at times of festival
- c) To encourage sensitive understanding of a variety of beliefs and practices
- d) To present basic religious concepts
- e) To develop understanding of religious symbols and language
- f) To support the search for meaning
- g) To respond to the aesthetic
- h) To encourage a sense of responsibility
- i) To affirm values and commitment
- j) To think about others and to empathise with them

Planning for collective worship

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. We follow a programme of extended monthly themes which support the aims of the school and also values which are shared by the Christian community. Our programme is flexible to allow the inclusion of special occasions, as well as current and topical issues.

Each act of collective worship will include time for thinking, sharing, listening and reflecting. We consider the elements to be the basic ingredients of any good act of worship.

We use the four part model of 'Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending' in our collective worship, with liturgical greetings.

Themed words for each half term will be introduced in a whole school assembly at the beginning of each half term and focussed on during collective worship.

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

The Approach to Collective Worship

At Denver V. C. Primary we draw upon the experience of staff, visiting members of local churches and pupils. We aim to provide a variety of experiences to enable pupils to reflect on things which we as a school believe are important. These may include:

- Stories
- Drama/Mime
- Dance
- Poetry
- Music
- Art
- Personal experience

We acknowledge that our school community is not worshipping in the same sense as a local church. However we provide daily acts of worship which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing community, for example:

- Praise
- Thanks
- Celebrations
- Sharing

Wherever possible, pupils are given opportunities to participate and contribute to collective worship. The law requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our collective Worship. This time may involve spoken prayers but can also be a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have seen and heard, thus providing an opportunity for each to worship God if they wish to do so.

Organisation

Whole school collective worship is held five days a week in the hall between 2.55pm and 3.10pm.

To make the space special, a candle is lit to focus the children. A wooden cross is also used as a focal point. Music will be played during entrance and exit.

The school recognises that issues arising from the day to day events of school life as well as current affairs will need to be addressed as appropriate.

Children are expected to walk in and out of the hall quietly in their class groups.

Evaluating Collective Worship

The foundation governors have responsibility for monitoring the quality of collective worship. Pupils will also be involved in evaluating collective worship through monitoring forms and involvement of the School Council.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their children to be withdrawn from RE and Collective Worship in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act. Reasons for withdrawal do not have to be given.

Parents are advised of the current provision of RE and collective worship in the school brochure, as required by law, and are asked to contact the Headteacher if they wish to exercise their right to withdraw and discuss their requirements. Arrangements for supervision will be made.

Staff may also withdraw from Collective Worship. In such cases, the Headteacher is responsible for making provision for the pupils. Currently, no member of staff exercises their right to withdraw.



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