

Willow Tree Primary School

Collective Acts of Worship Policy

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Working together for a brighter future

Introduction

The Collective Worship Policy at Willow Tree 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” and in recognition of the fact that some of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths. The Collective Worship Policy is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school. As such, assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

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 School

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Willow Tree Primary School and 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

Aims of Collective Worship For Pupils

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupils 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

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- 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, in Willow Tree Primary School, 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. The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy, which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to respond on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The RE subject leader will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship with the Headteacher.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom. Acts of worship will last for approximately twenty minutes although it is recognised that that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. Collective Acts of Worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies, R.E and PHSCE lessons.

Leadership

All members of the Leadership team and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of 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 the pupils. Termly Planning sheets will list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with planning, we will ensure continuity and progression and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place. Actions should be recorded either as a parenting contract or individual attendance plan, whichever is most appropriate.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in Collective Acts of Worship. A variety of resources will be used. Leaders will choose the style / method and resources, which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the backgrounds of the pupils. The content and the process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response through reflection and prayer.

Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship on the grounds of religious conscience.