

Sherburn Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



The Collective Worship Policy at Sherburn Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through the SACRE. School assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character and not distinctive of any Christian denomination'. By broadly Christian we mean:

- That it contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and his actions
- That we share with pupils the Christian belief that all Christians should continue Jesus work by showing care and compassion for others and by exploring Christian concepts such as trust, forgiveness, compassion, humility, courage and integrity.

Whilst recognising our statutory duty we also acknowledge that we live in a multi-faith society and our assemblies reflect this. Our prayers and forms of worship are fully inclusive and broadly non-denominational.

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

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

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievements and special times for example Christmas and Easter
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit for our Pupils.

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

- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

In Sherburn 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. 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 Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship may take place in the school hall or the classroom. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies and at times into RE lessons.

We recognise that Collective Worship is an opportunity to promote Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, alongside British Values. Worship takes place in the context of our assemblies – which may also include features in addition to those required by Collective Worship.

At times our Collective worship is linked to work in PSHE. Our PSHE scheme Jigsaw contains ideas for effective Collective Worship and each Jigsaw topic begins with a whole school assembly. Collective Worship also has close links to Religious Education. Please see the RE policy for further information.

We hold three whole school assemblies per week. These usually last for between 15 and 20 minutes. Every Friday pupils' achievements are celebrated during our weekly Reward Assembly. The responsibility for arranging Collective Worship in Sherburn Primary School rest with the Headteacher, who in consultation with the Governing Body, is responsible for coordinating Collective Worship in school. Assembly themes are uploaded onto the school website each term.

The Right of Withdrawal

At Sherburn Primary School we seek to be an inclusive school, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from acts of Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher. All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of Collective Worship.

Monitoring, Education and Review

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of Collective Worship in the school. The policy will be reviewed every two years and the Headteacher will report annually to the Governing Body on its implementation.

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