



Longwood Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Aims

Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God,
- to consider spiritual and moral issues,
- to explore their own beliefs,
- to encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered,
- to develop community spirit, to promote a common ethos and shared values and
- to reinforce positive attitudes.

As set out in section 385 of the Education Act 1996...

'A pupil in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship'.

The Collective Worship required in the school shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Collective worship is of a broadly Christian character if it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination

Complaints and withdrawal of a child by parents from collective worship

Any parent has the legal right to ask for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. A clear statement appears in the School Prospectus which says:

'Any parent has the right to ask for their child to be withdrawn from Religious Education or Collective Worship, but we would ask you talk to us before taking that course as understanding and respecting others is a very important part of our Core Values. Children who do not take part in Assembly will be allowed time in the school library to read and research their current work in class.'

Objectives of the School's Policy

To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

To promote and reflect the School's Aims

Of personal responsibility

Of respect for the value of the individual and

Respect for social and religious groups in society

The School Context

Longwood Primary is a small school whose roll varies year on year between 130 and 145 pupils aged between 4 – 11 years. The great majority of pupils are from white families. A minority (15%) of pupils have other ethnic groupings or mixed groupings, though their and often their parents' upbringing has usually been exclusively within the local community. It is important that the school ethos and its policies and practices (including that of Collective



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Worship) acknowledge the nature of the school population. This will involve bringing an awareness of other cultures and beliefs to the predominantly white population, trying to foster tolerance and mutual understanding. It will also involve showing that the background and experience of children from ethnic minorities should be valued.



The School's Structure of Collective Worship and Present Practice Longwood Primary School

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for collective worship in consultation with the SLT. The present pattern of collective worship allows for a daily act of worship on the following format. The pattern is currently as follows:

- an act of worship led by the teachers on a rota including a spoken presentation of Christian/other religious or moral theme (weekly)
- a short reflection and prayer followed by singing practice (alternates with Class Assemblies)
- an act of worship led by a class teacher including a spoken presentation and reflection (weekly)
- Awards assembly which uses songs and prayers as a worship element but is mainly an opportunity to present certificates (In-house) and awards achieved out of school – to reward and recognise achievement (weekly)
- Class assembly – an act of worship taken by a whole class, arranged by the class teacher for each class once during a school year to which parents are invited
- Each term each year group work assembly where year groups take it in turn to share their very best work in any subject with all the school. These assemblies always contain a reflection and a prayer.

The Context of Collective Worship

- On three days of the week the pupils have a separate time of Collective Worship.
- The teachers on a rota will take it in turns to lead a presentation on a Christian, other religious or moral theme. This will include a time of reflection and a hymn or song.
- The teachers on a rota will lead a weekly Hymn Practice which includes a time of reflection.
- On Wednesday a specific class may lead the assembly and parents are invited to join us.
- On Friday is the time for a Whole School Awards Assembly when there will be a celebration of the achievements and successes of the pupils both at school and home.

Music

A variety of recorded music is played to the pupils as they enter their hall. Each act of worship contains a reflection or an invitation to join in a prayer as well as a hymn or song. Special acts of worship may be held during the year e.g. Harvest, charity work and for some of the festivals of other major faiths. Visiting speakers from the community may also be invited into school to talk to the pupils during Collective Worship times.



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Planning, Content and Recording of Collective Worship

The Headteacher and SLT, who contribute to the majority of acts of worship share the planning for their session, class teachers, choose their own theme using the SEAL theme. 'Whole class' acts of worship themes are chosen in the early part of the term and often have links with the wider curriculum being taught during that term or with festivals and anniversaries celebrated at the time of the act of worship or with aspects of a year group RE curriculum expanded or presented in forms (e.g. drama) not taken up in the classroom. A log is kept of each act of worship, including the presenter, theme and music used.

Resources

- A collection of books particularly suitable for class and group presentations are kept in the staff resource library
- Hymns – a box file of transparencies is kept. Accompaniment is by CD mainly using 'Come and Praise'. (Pupil monitors organize the projection process.)
- Music played as children assemble. The projection screen displays questions about the music. Teachers follow a rota to choose music to be played for a week.
- Resources in the Community – the school have approached representatives of religious groups to provide opportunities for pupils to widen their experience. This has links with the RE curriculum, where a visitor may speak to a class or year group. We also encourage outside speakers from charities and local services etc.

Festivals

A Christmas Carol Service may be held for the whole school. Parents are invited to attend. Other festivals including non-Christian are acknowledged in collective worship.

Monitoring, Reviewing, Evaluating

The Headteacher and SLT, who have most regular involvement, carry out the above process. This has led to changes in recent years, in the greater involvement of all the staff in presenting or arranging acts of worship. Each year the pattern, timing and structure is evaluated.

This policy should be read in conjunction with;

- Human Rights Act
- Equal Opportunities Act
- Disability Discrimination Act