

Collective Worship Policy



THURSTONLAND FIRST SCHOOL Collective Worship Policy

February 2017

Requirements for the Provision of Collective Worship

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Consider moral and spiritual issues
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not

Collective Worship

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, we base our collective worship sessions on traditions of the Christian Church. However, these sessions are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold collective worship sessions which reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

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Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. At times, these are in age appropriate key stages, at other times these may be class based.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We create a time which includes calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar as well as other world faiths. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum and often we consider global implications. The Headteacher, along with the Senior Leadership team, plans the themes for collective worship a term in advance. Themes may run over one or two weeks.

Our collective worship sessions also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. These sessions can offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and achievements recognised.

We invite parents to some collective worship session, usually those held in church due to space restrictions in school.

We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship sessions at any time.

We welcome visitors to lead collective worship sessions, such as our local vicar, a local lay preacher and other members of the community such as the Royal British Legion.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship, however any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher will keep a record of any child who was withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the three year policy review cycle by the Standards and Effectiveness Curriculum committee. The role of collective worship in school will be monitored by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and governors.

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