

Policy for Collective Worship



Introduction

At St John's our policies are regularly reviewed. This reflects current practice within school and all related government guidance and statutory requirements.

Rationale

To develop a relevant programme of collective worship that involves the pupils and takes place in a reverent, thoughtful, spiritual atmosphere as an integral element of the whole school assembly.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

Organisation

Collective worship takes place each day either as a whole school, phase or class. It takes place in the halls or classrooms. Each year a rota is made which involves the Head, Deputy, Key stage leaders and class teachers. This rota may need to be adapted as the need arises.

Each assembly will follow either the PSHE&C monthly themes, celebrations of achievements or attendance, religious festivals, topical issues and once a month a representative of St James' Church will deliver a Christian assembly. Stories, role play, artefacts and ICT will be used and visitors will be invited in where appropriate to enrich assemblies. Children will also be encouraged to be involved in assemblies. Assemblies may include singing, prayer and quiet reflection, the use of a candle may also be used.

Children are encouraged to be calm and quiet when entering and leaving the assembly and music will be used to help achieve this.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship 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 keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship and to report on this to the Governing Body.

Reviewed March 2015

Next review: March 2017