



THIRSK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy and Guidance for Collective Worship

Legal Requirements:

The 1944 Education Act stated that there must be a daily act of Collective Worship. This was amended in the 1988 Act to add that Collective Worship may be organised for separate groups of children and at any time of the school day. DfEE Circular 3/89 also states that:

- ✚ Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character
- ✚ Most acts of worship in a school term must be broadly Christian
- ✚ Those that are, must reflect broad traditions of Christian belief to an extent and in a way which gives them a Christian character, but is appropriate to having regard to the family background, ages and aptitudes of the children involved

Parental Rights

Parents continue to have the right to wholly or partly withdraw their child from Collective Worship. In situations where this may occur, the Headteacher will meet with the parents to determine which elements the child is not to take part in and the practical implications of the withdrawal (supervision).

Responsibilities for Collective Worship

It is the headteacher's duty to ensure that there is a daily act of Collective Worship.

What is Collective Worship?

Surprisingly, legislation does not define what is meant by the term Collective Worship!

In Thirsk Community Primary School, Collective Worship is generally defined as:

'A gathering together of a school group or groups for worship for:

- ✓ *An appreciation of things considered to be of worth or held in high regard*
- ✓ *A special personal feeling of reverence or humility*
- ✓ *An appreciation of the joys and wonders of the world*

- ✓ *An acknowledgement of the achievements and efforts of others, the struggles and sufferings of other human beings*
- ✓ *A sense of transcendence*
- ✓ *A reinforcement of the shared values of the school community*

Aims of Collective Worship

- ❖ To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life
- ❖ To enable children to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling those children with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others
- ❖ To enable children to approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation
- ❖ To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the children as individuals, as well as for our school and the wider community
- ❖ To develop a sense of community within and beyond our school
- ❖ To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to the children within our school and the wider community
- ❖ To acknowledge and respect difference and diversity

Diversity & Inclusion:

During Collective Worship we endeavour to cater for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals. It does not pre-suppose shared beliefs, nor is it distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Acts of Collective Worship take into account the family backgrounds of all our children and are part of the school's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Diversity is seen as an opportunity to enrich the life of the school community and special care is taken to embrace this in positive and sensitive ways. This is done through:

- ✚ Building up positive relationships with families and local faith communities
- ✚ Providing opportunities for silent reflection, to enable all pupils to make a personal response
- ✚ Developing a sense of shared values and achievements which cross religious and cultural boundaries

- + Respecting the integrity of different faiths and stances

Diversity & Special Educational Needs

Collective Worship is planned so that it engages all children. Staff use a variety of stimuli to ensure that all children can benefit from the experiences offered.

These include:

- + Music
- + Artefacts
- + Pictures
- + Special objects
- + Stories
- + Drama
- + Dance

School Ethos:

Collective Worship is part of the whole school curriculum (but it is not designated curriculum time). As such it provides us with the opportunity to promote the common values which are shared in our school and its community.

These values include:

- + Valuing ourselves and others
- + Valuing the environment
- + Trustworthiness
- + Forgiveness
- + Justice
- + Stewardship
- + Truth
- + Human Rights
- + Freedom

PSHEC

The recent framework for PSHEC enables our school to implement an approach to Collective Worship which offers children opportunities to reflect upon the importance of leading healthy, confident and responsible lives as individuals and members of society. Therefore, acts of Collective Worship intend to incorporate opportunities for children to consider:

- + Their own experiences and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues they face as they grow and mature

- ✚ Respect for the diversity of and differences between people
- ✚ The importance of playing a helpful part in the life of our school, its community and the wider world
- ✚ Creating a society where people matter more than things
- ✚ Their response to local, national and international events

Spiritual Development

We endeavour to promote spiritual development across the whole curriculum, with Collective Worship providing the lead. We acknowledge the development of the inner lives of all children, in searching for meaning and creating a sense of values. We hope to encourage everyone that there is something more to life than the ordinary. We do this by:

- ✚ Giving time for stillness and reflection
- ✚ Encouraging children to say what is important to them
- ✚ Celebrating what is worthwhile in their lives
- ✚ Creating an atmosphere conducive to a sense of peace and tranquillity
- ✚ Fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect
- ✚ Providing opportunities to develop the imagination
- ✚ Providing a special time which is separate from all other activities

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Whole School meet together on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 2.50pm. The headteacher leads the Monday and Thursday meetings, with Band Leaders take responsibility on Tuesday and Wednesday. One of these two sessions will focus upon learning and practising songs for Collective Worship with the inclusion of time for reflection and prayer.

The whole school meets together at 10.10am each Friday

Planning

Collective Worship in Thirsk Community Primary School follows a 2 year plan of themes which is evaluated bi-annually. (See Appendix 1) This plan is meant to be used in a creative manner to allow for spontaneity and important developments in the world in which we live. A record is maintained of the themes, objectives, resources and the text used. Appendix 2 provides a planning format for

recording Collective Worship. For further reference we also pencil in a date into the text whenever it has been used.

Resources

A wide range of resources is maintained by the Headteacher and RE coordinator. These are added to on a regular basis and a budget is available for their purchase. This budget reflects the identified needs which are prepared annually.

Involving Visitors

It is important that in asking visitors to take a part in Collective Worship we outline their educational role. The visitors also need to be made aware of:

- ✓ The time available
- ✓ Ages of the children taking part
- ✓ Background of children
- ✓ Context of their contribution

We also need to be cautious in accepting offers from both individuals and organisations to assist in Collective Worship. If in any doubt contact SACRE.

Inspecting Collective Worship

School Inspections include the inspection of Collective Worship. Appendix 3 includes some useful guidance upon this process.

Review & Evaluation

This policy and its guidelines were presented to and agreed by the Governing Body on 4th November 2003

It will be reviewed in the Spring Term 2005.

Thirsk Community Primary School

Collective Worship

Long Term Planning Themes

Collective Worship is planned as part of a two year cycle. Some themes are repeated in order to revisit them on a more regular basis. This promotes the school's spiritual, moral, cultural and social development for all children. It also supports the school's programmes which prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

	Year 'A'	Year 'B'
Autumn Term		
	New Beginnings	New Beginnings
	Caring for Others	Bible Stories
	Listening	Friendship
	Honesty	Courage
	Sharing	Considering Others
	Harvest	Harvest
	[Charities Identified]	
	War & Peace	Remembrance
	Courage/ Bravery	Looking Back/ Forward
	Famous People	Talking
	Kindness	Doing Tasks Well
	Perseverance	Fairness
	Giving	Famous People
	Christmas	Christmas
Spring Term		
	Bible Stories	Bible Stories
	Friendship	Listening
	Obedience	Wise & Foolish
	Spring	Those who help us
	Mum	Solving Problems

Key Festivals from Other Cultures

Unselfishness

Peace

Believing

Home

Easter

Families

Animals

Friendship

Senses

Easter

Summer Term

Bullying

Trust

Working Together

Friendship

Names

Love

Believing

Talents

Small Things Matter

Jesus the Helper

Wisdom

Creation

Ourselves

Colours

Caring for the Environment

Doing your best

Teamwork

Moving on

Honesty

Disappointment

Helpfulness

Doing your best

Teamwork

Moving on

Prepared November 2002

Presented to and agreed by staff in January 2003

R. Wild

Headteacher & Co-ordinator