

# Thirsk Community Primary School

## Policy for Collective Worship

### Introduction

Thirsk Community Primary School is a community school and nursery, in North Yorkshire, catering for children aged from 3 to 11 years.

This Collective Worship policy has been designed with the individual needs of our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

### Policy statement

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective Worship takes place daily and is planned to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

### Aims

The aims of collective worship in our school are:

- to develop a sense community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and emotional development of each child
- to reflect on beliefs, traditions and values which are of a broadly Christian nature and on pupils' own beliefs
- to explore and express the school's and British values
- to reflect on our lives, feelings and experiences
- to participate in and respond to worship
- to experience different elements of worship: celebration, reverence, sense of awe and wonder, praise, silence, and symbolism
- to provide opportunities for quiet reflection
- to foster a concern for the needs of others and an interest in events in the world beyond our community
- to develop respect for and appreciation of difference
- to promote tolerant attitudes towards different cultures, faiths and races.
- to celebrate success

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs. Collective worship acknowledges and respects the responses of individual pupils and provides opportunities for them to express those individual responses.

Collective worship does not assume a shared religious commitment and encourages pupils to consider their own place within the community and what it means to be a citizen.

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of its community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated. The Headteacher and Governor for SMSC report on collective worship and its impact upon pupils' development termly to the governing body. The Governor for SMSC monitors collective worship termly by attending assemblies and consulting with pupils, parents and staff.

## **The legal requirements: the Education Reform Act 1988**

### **Organisation**

Whole school collective worship takes place daily at 10.00am. Reception and Nursery pupils participate on Fridays. There is a theme for collective worship for each week. Arrangements are flexible, recognising the need to respond to local, national and international events. When classes are unable to attend whole school worship due to other events, an act of worship takes place in class instead.

### **Collective Worship is led by:**

Monday - Headteacher  
Tuesday - Deputy Headteacher  
Wednesday - Headteacher  
Thursday - Teacher on rota  
Friday - Headteacher

### **Style and Character**

The school provides a daily act of worship which is mainly of a broadly Christian character.

### **Interpreting the law for our school**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience, should they wish to do so. However, we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Parents are asked to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns.

### **Arrangements for those children withdrawn from Collective Worship**

Given our school's inclusive ethos, it is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case, children remain in their classroom, supervised by a member of staff.

### **The content of Collective Worship**

Our planning for collective worship incorporates:

- a range of spiritual, moral, social and cultural themes, including the promotion of fundamental British values (democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs)
- themes which support the Every Child Matters outcomes (be healthy, be safe, enjoy & achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being)
- themes which develop SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning: self-awareness, managing feelings, motivation, empathy and social skills)
- themes which support our school's valued habits of mind: persistence, resilience, pride, curiosity, co-operation and willingness to try new things.

Collective Worship may include the following:

- story, poetry, visual artefacts, music, auditory stimuli, drama
- discussion
- celebration of religious festivals
- prayer and reflection
- presentations by pupils and visitors
- aspects of the school curriculum and activities
- celebration of the achievements of the school community and its involvement in community events
- links with the local community
- visits from the local clergy
- presentations relating to national and international events and current affairs

### **Conclusion**

The content of our Collective Worship is designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils; to nurture a sense of community; to provide opportunities to encourage reflection and to promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

Policy written by: J Wilson, Deputy Headteacher

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Approved:

To be reviewed: February 2019

## Collective Worship Themes

Term	Week	Theme
Autumn	1	New beginnings
	2	Democracy & its Alternatives
	3	Staying Safe - Right & Wrong
	4	Harvest, Giving & Thankfulness in different Cultures
	5	Rights & Responsibilities
	6	Significant British Figures
	7	Confidence & Talents
	8	Remembrance & Forgiveness
	9	Anti-bullying, Trust & Honesty
	10	Stories and Traditions from other faiths
	11	Awe & Wonder
	12	Disappointment & Coping with the Unexpected
	13	Families & their Differences
	14	Christmas
Spring	1	Resolutions
	2	Freedom & Responsibility
	3	Staying Safe - Taking Risks
	4	Window on the World - short pupil presentations
	5	Stories from Holy Books
	6	Persistence & Turning Points
	7	Why are we here?
	8	Special Stories: World Book Week
	9	Health
	10	Individuality
	11	Easter
Summer	1	Truth, Honesty & Justice
	2	Significant Global Figures
	3	Staying Safe - Resisting Temptation
	4	Senses & Dysability
	5	Discrimination & Equality
	6	God & Gods - from 6 main world religions
	7	Mysteries & the Natural World
	8	Families & their Roots
	9	Appreciating the Arts
	10	Dreams, Aspirations & Trying New Things
	11	Belief & Proverbs from different cultures
	12	Citizenship & Contributing to the Community
	13	Learning from Experiences
	14	Moving on / saying goodbye