

The Grange School

Collective Worship policy

March 2018

To review March 2021

The Grange School

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to engage in an act of worship;
- to enable children to reflect upon 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 and an awareness of the needs of others
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship and give thanks.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to spiritual beliefs and traditions. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly unless there are aspects of that assembly that would make them feel uncomfortable.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that some of our pupils are practising members of other faiths, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 Assemblies reflect and refer to both the traditions and liturgical calendar of the Christian Churches (e.g. Christmas, Easter), and the religious traditions and calendars of all other faiths that are represented in the school and the wider community (e.g. Eid, Chinese New Year)

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which may be a whole-school assembly or an assembly led by a group of children. Sometimes, the act of daily worship is held in class, possibly with a discussion aspect. The assembly on each Friday is a Celebration Assembly in which children share good work and are rewarded as 'Learner of the Week' for displaying the weekly BLP theme.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of 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 in reflection and the sharing of each other's ideas and thoughts. 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.

- 3.3 The Head Teacher or other members of the leadership team normally lead assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or visitors are invited into the school to share the leadership of the assembly. Children also share in leading assemblies.
- 3.4 We take themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian and other faiths and we often reflect the festivals and events of the religious calendars. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, such as the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning and safeguarding issues, as well as our school values. Our assemblies also have a focus on 'Building Learning Power' (BLP) and teach the children about aspects of meta-cognition. We believe that by developing self awareness as a learner, this enables children to develop successful habits which they can use in the future to continually improve. This encourages self esteem, self confidence, independence and motivation. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place, although some assemblies do respond to events as they happen either within the school community or in the wider local or national community of which we are a part.
- 3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised and celebrated.
- 3.6 We invite parents to assembly at least once each week (Celebration Assemblies and class-led assemblies, as well as assemblies for special events or times or year). We encourage them to attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- 3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies, similarly as a way of governors sharing in and getting to know the work of the school.

General Focus for Collective Worship:

Monday - Building Learning Power Focus

Tuesday - Spiritual / Cultural Focus

Wednesday - Spiritual / Cultural Focus

Thursday - Spiritual Focus

Friday - Social / Community Focus

- 4 Right of withdrawal
 - 4.1 Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the great majority of assemblies. 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.
- 5 Monitoring and review
 - 5.1 The governing body liaises with the Head Teacher on collective worship and reviews the policy and practice with her on a regular basis.

