



Shardlow Primary School

Aspire Achieve Thrive



Collective Worship Policy

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Version Control

Date	Author	Amendments
2021	KM	No changes from previous policy
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with Derbyshire's SACRE guidance for collective worship.
- 1.2 SACRE is the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. All local authorities are required by law to have a SACRE to advise on matters concerning the teaching of Religious Education and Collective Acts of Worship and make determinations of cases in which the requirement for Christian collective worship is not to apply.

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1 At Shardlow Primary School we see collective worship as a time to celebrate and embed our values and beliefs and value and respect the beliefs of others.
- 2.2 Although broadly Christian in nature our assemblies reflect the modern multicultural and diverse society in which we live.
- 2.3 Parents have the right to request to withdraw their children from collective worship. Please contact your child's class teacher or the headteacher to discuss and arrange if you wish to exercise this right.

3. Aims

- 3.1 The aims of our collective worship are:
 - To develop the spiritual, moral and social awareness of children.
 - To help children to develop their ideas about the world, about themselves and about the value and worth of other people and to ask relevant questions.
 - To foster a sense of community within the school and the wider community, locally and globally.
 - To develop a sense of justice and injustice and a sense of shared responsibility for our world.
 - To increase the children's knowledge of people who, by their lives and by their example, have made significant contributions to society and to empathise with their beliefs
 - To enable children to reflect on and to understand their own faith and those of others.

4. Organisation

- 4.1 Collective worship will take place daily either as a whole school or in key stage groups, and will be appropriate to all children of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate. It is an opportunity for children to celebrate their own achievements, those of the school and the community.
- 4.2 Daily collective worship usually takes place from 11.45am to 12.00pm in one of the classrooms.

- 4.3 Themes for the week are planned around the calendar year and reflect special events and celebrations. They may also reflect PSCH topics which we wish to reinforce or our school values and ethos and British values.
- 4.4 The assembly themes are determined at the start of each term. Notes of the Assemblies are kept by a designated child. Each teacher is required to take a weekly assembly. Assemblies may also be taken by the Junior Leadership Team, Sports Ambassadors, Anti-bullying team or outside visitors.
- 4.5 All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.
- 4.6 Under no circumstances will children be asked to accept beliefs that are contrary to their family background.
- 4.7 Acts of Collective Worship will:
- reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual children and encourage a voluntary response from children,
 - acknowledge and respect the responses of individual children and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings such as delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing and sorrow,
 - not assume a shared religious or Faith commitment, and will encourage children to consider their own place in the community; help understand the importance of British Values and how they shape us in terms of being responsible citizens.

5. The Legal Requirements

- Collective Worship must be offered daily, but may be offered at any time during the school day
- It can be a single act for all children, or separate acts for any normal grouping e.g. a class or key stage
- The head of school has the responsibility for making arrangements for worship
- Most of the acts of worship in any one term must be of a wholly, or mainly, of a broadly Christian character
- The way in which this 'Christian character' is defined must be decided by each individual school, with regard to the children's family background, ages and aptitude
- No acts of worship should be distinctive of any particular (Christian) denomination e.g. it should not have a strong Church of England content, or Catholic content – it should be 'ecumenical'
- Acts of worship can include worship which is of a broadly Christian character; which is broadly in the tradition of another religion (as long as this is only a minority of acts of worship in any one school term); which contain elements drawn from a number of faiths

- Parents may request to withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience, should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all children. It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. If parents/carers wish to withdraw their child they should discuss this with the headteacher or the class teacher. Where a decision is made to withdraw, arrangements will be made for the child to be supervised elsewhere during the act of worship.

6. Content of Collective Worship

6.1 Collective Worship may include the following:

- Personal reflection and self-expression
- Exploration of the many values and beliefs which, although Christian, are also reflected in society at large and held as important by members of other world religions e.g. a sense of awe at the natural world (cultural)
- Personal recognition of right and wrong (moral)
- The capacity to flourish as a human being (spiritual)

6.2 The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and the use of the Shardlow Spirits, to provide opportunities for reflection, to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

6.3 Acts of collective worship will reflect the broad tradition of Christian belief (reflecting Christianity's multi-cultural and pluralist nature) and promote a positive ethos and community values. They will draw on the values and traditions of other religions as appropriate, helping to promote confidence in a pupil's own traditions and the ability to see value in the traditions of others.

6.4 The school has close links with St James's church and a number of services are held in the Church each year. (Harvest, Christmas and Leaver's services)

Appendix 1 – Key Principles Underpinning Effective Collective Worship

Collective worship should be educational, inclusive and an active as opposed to passive activity.

When planning it is a good idea to bear the following in mind:

- A meaningful act of worship needs to be allowed a reasonable amount of time
- Collective worship should engage children's minds as well as their hearts and spirits
- There needs to be a sense of occasion for worship
- Worship should have a clear beginning and an end
- Although worship is separate and additional to RE and the National Curriculum there should be links to the wider life of the school
- Worship should be distinct from administration, it is not just 'assembly'
- Language, content and the theology (the way God is described and talked about) need to be appropriate for the age and abilities of children
- Children should be encouraged to make contributions to worship
- A variety of resources connected to themes and occasions are useful

Worship works best when a variety of experiences are provided. You may find it useful to adopt some of the approaches below

- Tell a story
- Describe a situation or event
- Drama and part speaking e.g. involve children in telling a story through movement, actions or words
- Visual aids and artefacts
- Music. Not just singing. A well-chosen piece of music can help create an atmosphere for worship and reflection
- Silence.....important for allowing time for thought and reflection
- Child participation
- Visitors. Remember visitors need to have a clear brief, they need to be informed about the traditions and customs of a school and they usually welcome clear feedback.

Collective worship should always engage children in a reflective, open-ended experience.

Appendix 2 – Usual Pattern of acts of worship

Monday	Whole school values assembly led by Head of School.
Tuesday	Whole school music assembly led by Music Subject Leader
Wednesday	Picture News assemblies in Key stage groups.
Thursday	Whole school inclusion assembly led by PSHE subject Leader.
Friday	<i>Whole school Philosophy for children assembly led by the English subject leader. (ad hoc and not weekly)</i> Whole school Spirit celebration assembly led by Head of School.