

Shipbourne Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools, except maintained special schools, must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils to promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development.

Aims and Purpose

Collective worship must reflect the fact that religious traditions in Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions, therefore our Collective worship will be of broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone present to take an active part in the assembly.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to meet together;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs, encouraging responsibility for making personal decisions ;
- 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 promote British Values;
- to instil personal and community values;
- to develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world;
- to provide time and space for personal reflection.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes the form of either a whole-school assembly or key-stage assembly.

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 songs.

An acceptable collective worship should do some or all of the following:

- Have a clear message/focus;
- Stimulate pupils to think/meditate/reflect/to see everyday things in a new way;
- Introduce pupils to things otherwise beyond their experience;
- Inform the emotions and five senses as well as the mind;
- Contain either a prayer/meditation/space for silence.

Collective worship could also include:

- Readings (ensuring the message is clearly communicated);
- Music;
- Stories;
- Singing;
- Video clips;
- Prayer;
- Quiet reflection;
- Drama;
- Art;
- Artefacts.

The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead (e.g. High Hopes). We also invite other guest speakers, such as representatives from charities and community groups such as the local police.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place. The RE leader co-ordinates this in liaison with staff

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. Shipbourne Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

Parents and governors are invited to attend special assemblies, such as end of term celebrations, which take place in our local church at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the Summer Term. During these services, all classes present poetry, songs or drama and Star of the Term awards are presented to one child from each class in recognition of outstanding achievement.

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 1996 Education Act.

The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the head teacher and Governing Body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors concerned will liaise with the head teacher before reporting to the full governing body.

This policy will be reviewed regularly.

Agreed:

Review: June 2020