



Collective Worship Policy

June 2016

Framework

Cherry Tree School has a religiously diverse community. Many faiths are represented including those from non-religious families. The faith background of the child's family is respected at all times.

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life, and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner. In assemblies we do not use prayer but regularly use moments of silence. This provides opportunities for reflection and for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

Aims

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for pupil's to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Engage in activities raising awareness of differing values, beliefs and traditions
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response
- Develop a sense of community spirit
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Objectives

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life - the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn....



Cherry Tree Primary School

Organisation

- Foundation Stage - have collective worship in their class everyday except Wednesday when they have a Foundation Stage assembly. KS 1 and 2 have a daily act of collective worship within a morning assembly. This is normally a whole-school assembly, although sometimes we also hold separate infant and junior assemblies. One day a week we have a music assembly led by the music subject leader, one day a week worship is combined with celebrating achievement and sharing pupils work, and one day a week there is a class assembly.
- The Headteacher usually leads the whole school worship, with a rota of other staff leading worship on other days. Sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups are invited to contribute.
- We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell pupils that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect pupils to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully. 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 pupils.

Planning

Planning for worship is based around a 2 year cycle of values for each month which are linked when possible with the PSHE+C curriculum and Seal materials. We have a Reflection of the Week linked to the month's value class teachers base their class and key stage assemblies on this theme. Assemblies also include:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Thought/reflection/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

Success Criteria

We know if our worship policy is effective by monitoring the:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, and reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- A sense of occasion
- Good order
- Staff affirmation
- A sense of challenge
- Enrichment of pupil's experience

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 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. All withdrawals are recorded in the child's personal file.

Review This policy is to be reviewed in July 2017 in line with the Governor's two year plan.

