



Southern Road Primary Collective Worship Policy

Aims

To provide a time when children come together to celebrate, reflect and learn from experiences of religion, world events, music and celebrations.

The four main aims are:

Spiritual Development

- To provide an opportunity for students to experience worship,
- To foster such feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy,
- To respond to the aesthetic (music, poetry, art, literature)
- To explore the sense of sacred,
- To help students explore their place in their world and their search for the meaning,
- To provide an opportunity for the reflection and contemplation,
- To heighten awareness of ultimate questions.

Moral Development

- To encourage respect for others and care for the environment,
- To understand the importance of commitment to human living,
- To foster the virtue of fair-mindedness and a willingness to consider the views and values of others,
- To help students understand the balance between rights and responsibilities,
- To help students to make informed moral choices.

Social Development

- To reflect the school as an inclusive community
- To promote the feeling of community, with shared ethos and values
- To provide an opportunity for students to become acquainted with school Governors and other community leaders,
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements,
- To foster a sense of belonging.

Cultural Development

- To reflect the school as a diverse community,
- To provide an opportunity for students to become acquainted with local leaders, including religious ones,
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate cultural and religious festivals,
- To appreciate the dynamic nature of the culture and how it impacts on society.

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The legal position of collective worship

The school has a statutory requirement to have a Collective Worship Policy.

Worship itself is not clearly defined in the Education Act, but the following is stated in the DFE circular1/94:

“worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate for ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being, or power... worship in school will necessarily be of different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common.”

The Collective Worship Policy at Southern Road Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. All pupils (from Reception to Year 6) shall take part in an act of Collective Worship each day which shall be of a broadly Christian character.

Schools cannot compel people to worship, but the purpose of CW is an educational one that promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in the following manner:

- Active rather than passive (actively involved in answering questions).
- Directed towards something(a value/someone)
- Personal (time for reflection).

This policy helps to ensure that the whole school community, parents, staff, governors and students have a shared understanding of this important area of the curriculum.

Parents who wish to withdraw their children, because of personal choice or religious affiliation, are permitted to do so, once they have made a formal written request to the school and this has been agreed by the Headteacher and Governors. A record of withdrawals is kept by the Collective Worship Leader.

Organisation

Collective Worship takes place during assemblies for the whole school in Key Stage groups and in the classroom.

Collective Worship follows a theme approach. A system of themes and stories is decided at the start of each half- term, taking into account any significant religious celebrations, world events, school or community events and student achievements.

In Reception Collective Worship is in individual classes. It is expected that the Reception Classes will follow the same themes and thoughts as planned for the rest of the school.

The delivery of Collective Worship will be through class presentations, singing, stories, drama, awards and guest speakers. Strategies will include the use of interactive presentations. The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be carefully considered and half-termly outlines will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

An effective practice model for an act of Collective Worship is as follows:

PLUG IN-this is about awakening the children.

Using a stimulus e.g. music, picture, quotation, or flowers. We need to give the children time to prepare. A well-chosen piece of music can help create an atmosphere for worship and reflection

SWITCH ON- This about engaging the children.

It will usually focus on a particular story, article, drama or message. Using different approaches and involving different people will provide a variety in worship. The material needs to be presented in an appealing way. The material should be appropriate to the age group. Visual aids and artefacts can provide useful illustrations of key points and help the children to remember the message.

LIGHT UP- This is about allowing the children to respond.

It must include an opportunity for the pupils to reflect and if appropriate for them, to think about God. It may be a prayer, poem, or guided reflection.

For this to be Collective Worship a period of silence for the students to reflect must be allocated as silence can allow for individual thought and reflections.

The key to excellent Collective Worship is effective reflection. Some examples of how this can be achieved are as follows:

- Silent sitting
- Visualisation
- Focussing on a specific message
- School reflection or poem

Collective Worship and Inclusion

In line with the other school policies, Collective Worship aims to meet the needs of all children through planned differentiation and resources. This will take into account the need to adapt presentations to account for children's different learning styles, especially those to whom English is an Additional Language (EAL), children with Specific Special Needs and the Gifted and Talented pupils.