



Woodlands Community Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

At Woodlands, Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

Aims

That our children grow into **responsible, caring, active members of society** who are confident, independent, lifelong learners with *spiritual* and emotional **awareness and resilience**.

The central aims of Collective Worship at Woodlands are to:

- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- help children develop and understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.
- provide and encourage an arena to ask questions about faith/ explore what a statement or event means to them.

The Legal Position

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief."

At Woodlands, we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes include inspiring people, beat the bullies, being good citizens and Christian festivals. This means that our acts of worship, though 'broadly' Christian, does not necessarily contain Christian material only. We believe these themes are universal in their application. We recognise that in our school we have a minority of children from faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at The Woodlands is an inclusive activity. Parents do have, of course, the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Parents

who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher.

Context of Collective worship

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary in size. Our pattern is set out below:

Monday	-	Whole school introduction of theme introduction and related hymn/song practise.
Tuesday	-	Theme developed and visitors from the local church
Wednesday	-	Class-based worship on theme
Thursday	-	Year group development of theme
Friday	-	Whole school celebration of work

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We consider our acts of worship to help inform our learning and plan for further developments. We are developing a range of resources to enhance children's learning. These include stories, music, slides, poems, pictures and posters and DVDs all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

All 'assemblies' - acts of collective worship, end with either a chance to reflect or a prayer that reflects our Christian ethos.

Conclusion

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.

Review

Policy reviewed: January 2017

Date of next policy review: January 2020