



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

(non statutory)

Reviewed May 2015

Policy approved: by Headteacher May 2015

Next Review: July 2019

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 14

You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you

PRINCIPLES

- As a school, we follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act
- Collective worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled
- Awareness of other religious traditions and beliefs may present issues for wider discussion. Such issues will be explored further within the Religious Education curriculum provided within the school
- We interpret “worship” in the following way:

“A form of human activity, when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greater meaning for us”.

The amazing fact of Quaker Worship G H Gorman

- We also recognise that “worship” involves the recognition of a supreme being or deity
- Acts of collective worship should be non denominational and wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils, apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

AIMS

Collective Worship is an integral part of the life of the school community. Within the provision of Collective Worship at Newlands Primary School, we aim to develop:

- Social and moral values
- Spiritual awareness
- Knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship
- Knowledge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

We also aim to provide a time which:

- Allows a pause for a reflection and stillness in the midst of the busy school day
- Provides a rhythm to the life of the school by marking and celebrating special occasion and achievements
- Facilitates the development of a sense of community, of belonging and sharing together
- Encourages children to learn how to be a part of large and small gatherings, as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation
- Allows for celebration and reflection on things held to be of worth

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

The children participate in whole school collective worship each day in the school hall. A staff rota with themes is developed by the RE curriculum manager each term. The act of worship may be provided within the classroom if circumstances prevent the usual arrangements.

BALANCE OF CONTENT

The majority of acts of collective worship are based on the broad principles and values of Christianity. Themes are chosen which are appropriate to the children whatever their background or personal beliefs. A theme is explored each week with a focus on particular issues to provide a stimulus for reflection. However, each term may include singular topics related to specific events or days of special interest (for example, Saints' days, road safety, charity events).

PRESENTATION

A variety of approaches are used in exploring issues. These include:

- Stories
- Poems
- Radio/TV broadcasts
- Artefacts
- Pictures
- Discussion
- Drama
- Sharing children's work

A variety of means is used by which children are given the opportunity to worship. These will include quiet reflection, poetry, formal prayers, hymns or songs.

Whole school collective worship can be lead by any member of Staff. Visitors to the school will also be asked to lead acts of worship following a discussion with the Headteacher.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship under Section 9 of the 1988 Education Act. A member of staff or a parent will supervise any child, who is withdrawn. With the parents' agreement, a child could be present during collective worship, but not take part in it. Such a possibility would need to be discussed.

RECORDS

Both the Headteacher and RE curriculum manager will ensure records and resources are maintained and monitor the quality and content of collective worship.