



WORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
"lifelong learning"

Collective Worship Policy

February 2020

Date of next review: February, 2021

This document has been agreed by the Full Governing Body and signed by the Chair.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____



WORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Collective Worship Policy Document

Introduction

This document is a policy statement of the agreed approach to the development of Collective Worship at Worth Primary School. In producing this policy the Head of School considered the development of Collective Worship throughout the school in consultation with the Executive Head teacher and teaching staff.

Statement

The Education Reform Act (1988) requires all pupils in maintained schools to attend a daily act of collective worship. It is the responsibility of the executive Head teacher, in consultation with the Governing Body, to arrange for daily acts of Collective Worship to take place.

Values and Aims

Collective Worship is the coming together of the school community or a specific group from the school community to celebrate collective values. We believe, at Worth Primary School, that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. We seek to make every act of Collective Worship appropriate to the family background, age, aptitude and level of understanding of the children, moreover, 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.

Our objectives are:

- To celebrate the shared curriculum/school values of the school community – especially resilience, reflection, relevance and relationships.
- To embed the importance and relevance of the British Values.
- To develop positive values and attitudes by encouraging respect for oneself and for others.
- To develop the practice of spiritual reflection.
- To reinforce the objectives of RE within the school.
- To safeguard children who are already members of a religious tradition.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children 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 everyday situations and beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings.
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it is religious or not.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. It aims to enhance the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

Organisation

We acknowledge that we are required to provide a daily act of Collective Worship, on school premises at any time of day and with any group of pupils.

To ensure that it is relevant to the age and aptitude of the pupils concerned and that all pupils are able to attend, daily collective worship is organised for a variety of groupings:

- Early Years
- Key Stage 1
- Key Stage 2
- Year groups
- Class Groups

Our pattern is to hold a whole school act of Collective Worship on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays there is a class act of Collective Worship.

Approaches

At Worth Primary School a variety of approaches are used to ensure that Collective Worship is effective and of relevance to the pupils. These approaches may include extracts from stories, poetry, drama or music together with special objects or display to provide a focal point. Each act of Collective Worship will contain either a period of quiet reflection or an opportunity for prayer.

Collective Worship is led principally by the Head of School or a member of staff. Guests from outside the school and the pupils themselves are encouraged to lead Collective Worship where appropriate.

Planning and Recording

Collective Worship is planned by the members of staff who are responsible for leading worship. Planning takes account of special events in the school, in the local community or in the wider context or can be themed around a British Value or school/curriculum value. Our Harvest Festival, Easter Service and Christmas Carol Concert take place in the local village church. The Church Reverend often gives a blessing at these events.

Resources

The school has a bank of resources to aid teachers and visitors in their planning for Collective Worship. As a school we have books which:

- consist of Christian stories and stories from different religions and cultures;
- provide background knowledge about different religions and cultures;
- provide ideas for active assemblies and pupil involvement in assemblies;
- can be used to illustrate moral issues.

Resources are stored either in the staff room, office or library area.

Equal Opportunities

Collective Worship should be appropriate to all pupils involved, regardless of age, gender, aptitude, social or cultural background. All pupils will have an equal opportunity to participate in and respond to Collective Worship.

However, parents may choose to withdraw their children from acts of Collective Worship. The School continues to be responsible for the pupil's supervision at times of Collective Worship and arrangements will be made accordingly.

The 1994 Education Act also recognises a teacher's freedom to decide not to attend Collective Worship.

The Executive Head teacher hopes that staff will appreciate the value of Collective Worship in developing and promoting the ethos and the shared values of the school and choose to come to whole school Collective Worship. It is also hoped that they will be willing to lead an act of Collective Worship when required. No teacher will be discriminated against on the grounds of religious opinion or practice whether they choose to participate in acts of Collective Worship or not.

Evaluation

It is essential to monitor the effectiveness of this policy statement as it is implemented in practice. The following recommendations are provided to ensure future development.

There will be regular informal and formal discussion between staff on Collective Worship throughout the school.

From time to time the Head of School will monitor acts of Collective Worship led by others in order to maintain an appropriate overview.

This policy will be subject to review yearly.

Written and agreed: February 2020

Next review due: February 2021