



Summerseat Methodist Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

The Governing Body adopted the revision of this policy on 22nd May 2012.

Aims

Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to

- worship God;
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- explore their own beliefs;
- encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to
- develop community cohesion, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

Guidelines

The Trust Deed of this school makes provision for denominational collective worship in accordance with the practices of the Methodist Church. Guidance from the Methodist Church will support the collective worship of the school.

The responsibility for co-ordinating acts of collective worship lies with the Headteacher.

‘Worship’ must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration to God. However, worship in a school will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to ‘collective worship’ rather than ‘corporate worship’.

Traditionally, collective worship consists of a sequence of events woven together to make a coherent whole. It may include a number of activities which are not specifically worship in the strict sense, but which nevertheless contribute to the sense of occasion.

The usual pattern of daily collective worship, depending on circumstances, may include a varying combination of some of these elements:-

Prayer

Silence for reflection or prayer

Singing

Readings / stories / video clips / images

Exposition

Collective Worship Timetable

We plan a variety of acts of collective worship - some whole school, some key stage specific and some class based.

We aim to hold our collective worship in Church at least once a half term.

The current timetable can be found on the staffroom noticeboard.

Reflective Areas

To encourage personal reflection at other times of the school day, we provide a reflective area/space in the hall and in each classroom where children are encouraged to reflect on a particular issue.

Class Prayers

We pray with the children before lunch and at the end of the school day. There are set prayers that we use - these can be found in the staff handbook.

Resources for Collective Worship

A variety of resources are held in school which will support the acts of collective worship. These resources are stored on the 'RE and Collective Worship' resource shelf in the staffroom. Resources to help staff develop reflective areas are stored in the staff room.

Special Educational Needs and Collective Worship

To support the Special Educational Needs policies of the school and the LEA it is important that attention is given to the content of, and approach to, collective worship. The responsibility for this lies with those who arrange and lead the act of collective worship.

Collective Worship and Religious Education

The act of collective worship is not a substitute for class-based religious education, but an opportunity for the whole school or groups to meet together, to share experience and concern, to celebrate festivals and events and consider ideas. In law RE and Collective Worship are separate and distinct (even though there is some obvious overlap).

Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Responsibility for the implementation of the school's policy lies with the head teacher. Management, monitoring and evaluation of collective worship in each stage and throughout the school are the responsibilities of the head teacher in consultation with the governing body.

A comprehensive record for each assembly is kept by the head teacher.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

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.