



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

At Headlands C of E Junior, Infant and Nursery we believe that 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.

Rationale

The fundamental principles and ideals of the Christian faith underpin and enhance the spiritual and moral development of our pupils and all that we do in our school life. School worship is an inclusive activity which affirms and celebrates the Christian values and ethos of the school.

Aims

The central aims of Collective Worship are to:

- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; to enable pupils to experience a sense of mystery, awe and wonder
- to provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God
- 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 an 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
- to develop inner awareness and a sense of spirituality
- to explore feelings and emotions in a challenging but secure atmosphere
- to allow the skills for worship to be acquired, practised and developed

School worship should reflect children's own experiences, and give opportunities for reflection, reverence, joy, sorrow, praise, thankfulness, compassion and peace. It is important that collective worship shares its themes and topics with the PSHCE which is being taught in the classrooms. Issues such as personal relationships, bullying, ambitions, and self-awareness are part of our planned worship.

Equally, our collective worship is responsive to needs and issues which occur in the news and arise in the school and community. We also have assemblies which relate to special times of year, including festivals in the Christian calendar. Most acts of worship are wholly Christian in character i.e. reflect traditions of Christian belief although are not denominational. Pupils are taught about a different Christian value each half term. Displays reflecting the Christian value being discussed will be found in the hall, main corridor and in each classroom. We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith

backgrounds and that some children and their families 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. Worship should be about sharing not about conflict. Occasionally faiths other than Christianity are explored and celebrated in collective worship e.g. Diwali.

In collective worship a priority is to recognise success in a variety of fields, and this contributes to our celebration of worth and worthiness and of all that is right and good.

Although parents can request permission for their children to be removed from attending collective worship, we firmly believe that our assemblies are a positive influence on the development of all children and are a major contribution to the social, spiritual, moral and cultural health of the school. Parents should discuss the issue with the headteacher in the first instance.

Collective worship is led by staff as a timetabled occurrence. As part of a Church of England School, all staff are expected to lead collective worship. Local clergy or representatives of local religious groups also lead collective worship on a regular basis. In a voluntary controlled school it is the role of the Governing Body to determine the form of the act of worship.

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 Headlands we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes are based around our Core Values of; caring, sharing, loyalty, honesty and forgiveness. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. Collective Worship at Headlands 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.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion with valued feedback from parents, visitors, governors and pupils.

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.