



Bitham Brook Primary School

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Policy Title	Collective Worship Policy		
Last Review Date	19/01/2017		
Accepted by Full Governing Body	25/01/2017		
Next Review Date	01/01/2019		
Author	Responsible Committee		Pupil Support

Policies to Be read in Conjunction: -

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible. The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow and Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image, moment of silences and reflection etc

Philosophy

At Bitham Brook Community School to fulfil the statutory requirements of the Educational Reform Act we have a daily act of Collective Worship because we believe that the children must have an opportunity to develop their spirituality. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students, and staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. We believe that worship should be inclusive and delivered in a way that enables all members of the school community to feel able to be part of the experience whilst remembering and respecting the integrity of the family and cultural backgrounds of the pupils we serve.

Aims and Purpose

It is our aim that collective worship should

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the SEAL programme.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God, to experience stillness and quiet and to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation through praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help children to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

What is Collective Worship?

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an act of worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in assembly and worship. All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94

which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

The head teacher and governors, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background.

Organization

- The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher.
- To provide children with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.
- We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell the children that part of assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect the children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in the prayer and singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using a wide variety of culturally diverse music, objects and images as a focal point for the attention of the children both inside and occasionally outdoors.
- All members of staff conduct assemblies and frequently visitors join us to enrich the occasion.
- We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes. Our assemblies follow the school values i.e. teamwork, respect, honesty, self-belief, determination and passion. These are linked with British Values of tolerance, respect, democracy and the rule of law. Sometimes we reflect traditions, festivals and events of the Christian calendar and sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.
- Our assemblies may reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by showing their work and reflecting on issues discussed in their classes. There is an opportunity to acknowledge, celebrate and reward children for their achievements both within and outside school.
- We organize class assemblies as part of the programme where each class presents examples of their work to the rest of the school community. Parents are invited and welcomed to these occasions.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending the collective worship aspect of assembly and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during this period. 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.

Monitoring and review

The Headteacher monitors the Collective Worship programme and reports to the Governing Body on an annual basis.