

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

The Collective Worship Policy across the Trust schools pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching, British values and the values that are shared with other faiths.

The Collective Worship Policy across the trust schools is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus and centre around the schools values encompassed in the 5 C's. These are co-operation, courtesy, care commitment and consideration.

Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Definition of Collective Worship

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to celebrate children's achievements
- to provide children with the opportunity to think and reflect on important themes
- to enable children to become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- to enable children to grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- to enable children to explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- to enable children to deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- to enable children to grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- to enable children to respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- to enable children to acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

2 Collective worship

2.1 Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the schools meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 As our trust schools are culturally rich, our assemblies celebrate and reflect the diverse community that we are part of. We believe that collective worship is a time for reflection on our beliefs and values. We hold assemblies that explore and consider religious traditions, festivals and holidays from all faiths that are represented in the trust schools and the wider community.

3 Organization of collective worship

3.1 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. We hold a daily act of collective worship across the trust schools. This is normally an assembly led by the Head of School, a phase assembly, a singing assembly, senior leaders assembly or class assembly.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully. We create an appropriate atmosphere and at times we use music that acts as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 The, Heads of School or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes representatives of local religious groups or charities such as the NSPCC conduct them instead.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions and the festivals of different faiths represented in the school and our British Values Curriculum. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place. These themes are published in the staff handbook and on the school's website.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Arbor academy schools are successful schools and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.6 We invite parents to class assemblies as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

4.2 The Heads of School keep record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

4.3 We expect all members of staff to participate in all aspects of our assemblies.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Heads of School before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Signed:

Dated:

Date of review: November 2018