

Pirbright Village Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

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Reviewed	Biennially
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Philosophy

As a school community we endeavour to give all pupils every opportunity to develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally; acts of Collective Worship are part of this provision. We interpret 'Collective Worship' as being a gathering of members of the school community in order to reflect on shared values and issues. It should be inspiring, creative, inclusive, challenging and appropriate for the everyone from all faiths or none, without danger of compromising anyone's personal beliefs. Collective Worship at Pirbright Village Primary School is broadly based on Christian beliefs and is underpinned by our Values-led curriculum. We link all acts of worship to our agreed Pirbright Values.

Statutory Guidance

Department for Education (February 2020) *'all state-funded schools are required to provide a daily act of collective worship for pupils aged between 5 to 18 years, through legislation for maintained schools or their funding agreements for academies' and that all schools without a religious designation 'are required to provide collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, which means that it "reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination"'*

Consent

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the school's collective worship. We encourage all parents to liaise with the school and develop an understanding of what Pirbright's collective worship looks like in practice in order to make an informed decision.

Definitions of Worship

There has been much discussion on the origin and meaning of the word 'worship'. Here are two definitions:

- 'worship' comes from the Anglo Saxon 'worth-ship' i.e. to give worth or value to something or someone. Within this definition collective worship could be seen to be a daily gathering of the school community, or groups within the school, in order to explore shared values, and areas of shared concern and worth.
- the most common usage of the word 'worship' implies reverence paid to a supreme divine being or power & an openness to the transcendent.

Aims

The aim of Collective Worship is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- reflect on values and spiritual beliefs and on their own beliefs through quiet time, meditation or reflection on the theme presented
- worship their own God if they have one
- develop a sense of awe and wonder for the world in which they live
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- develop an understanding of moral, social and cultural issues and diversity
- celebrate each other's achievements
- to mark and celebrate special occasions
- know what is right and wrong.

Practice

Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis as a whole school, key stage, year group or class assemblies for children in Key Stage 1 and 2, and regularly throughout the week for children in Reception.

Each assembly

- embodies the school's agreed values and enriches the pupils' understanding of their own and other's beliefs (often incorporating our school aims and Values)
- is a valued event in the life of the school community;
- is accessible to all in terms of content and delivery;

- is sensitive to the beliefs and backgrounds of individual members of the school community;
- is organised to give time for reflection;
- is well planned to meet the aims set out above;
- allows time for staff and pupils to respond to current school, local community, national community and wider world issues;
- celebrates children showing the school's values and rewards them with citizenship points;
- is linked to the school's value of the month.

Organisation

Throughout the school week a variety of assemblies take place, including teacher-led key stage assemblies, key stage singing assemblies, head/deputy head teacher-led assemblies, values-led circle time in class (Wells of Wellness) and class assemblies. On a Thursday, the week's achievements are celebrated in a Head Teacher award assembly where children are presented with certificates to reflect upon their learning from the week. Birthdays are celebrated as part of the weekly assembly rota. Linked to the schools' SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual & Cultural) provision, children have the opportunity to reflect on regular 5-Minute Wonders which aim to promote conversation around diversity, moral dilemmas and topical themes linked to the world in which they live.

In addition to our weekly teacher led assemblies, throughout the year members of our school community, including our local vicar and members of other denominations, may attend assemblies to talk about various religious celebrations and practices. This may also include other local figures or members of organisations including charities.

There is the opportunity for children to top up one of their five Wells of Wellness as a class where they focus on spiritual, intellectual, physical, creative or emotional elements of their life and have a chance to share as a group and engage in a collective task.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

All children have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. However, parents may, without prejudice, withdraw their child from acts of Collective Worship, if they feel that the act of worship is wholly or partly inappropriate. Any such requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher following which a meeting will be arranged to discuss the most appropriate course of action.

Resources

In addition to the array of online resources, a variety of resources are available to support teachers in providing stimulating and interactive assemblies. Teachers' books are kept in the PPA Room and puppets, costumes and other resources are kept in the Props and Costume Cupboard. A music system, CDs and overheads for songs are kept in the main hall and a laptop and projector is also available for Internet links or other prepared multimedia resources.