



Bottisham Community Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

'Worship' implies the offering of personal devotion and honour. For some, this may mean a personal devotion to God. For others, worship signifies an understanding of aspects of life that are of importance and value.

Collective worship makes a valuable contribution to the life of our school. Children are encouraged to express their opinions about matters of importance, and they are given opportunities to hear the opinions of others. Collective worship allows our pupils to mix with those from other year groups, as well as those from the wider community.

For the individual child, collective worship provides a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It develops an understanding of the difference between beliefs or cultures. Through collective worship, we hope that the child's self esteem is promoted, and a basis for building and maintaining satisfying relationships is set.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship at Bottisham Primary School should enable children to:

- Experience worship in which God is the focus.
- Share feelings of awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- Experience prayer and ritual.
- Reflect upon elements of importance and meaning in life.
- Develop positive relationships, through encouraging social and moral development.
- Recognise that the school is part of a wider community, and allows pupils to become acquainted with people from this community.
- Provide opportunities to celebrate Christian festivals and those of other religions.
- Encourage awareness of environmental issues.
- Celebrate individual's gifts, talents and achievements.

Legal Requirements

An act of worship is not the same as an assembly, but it may form part of an assembly.

An assembly is a gathering of the whole school or part of the school for any purpose.

The main requirements of collective worship are:

- Worship should be held daily.
- It should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
- It should be non – denominational, although it may include material from another faith.
- It may be for different age groups. It need not be for the whole school together.
- Short, daily worship, or reflection, may take place in the classroom as a class group.

Until 1998, collective worship had to take place on school premises. Now, acts of worship in other venues such as churches are accepted. (School Standard and Framework Act 1998. Schedule 20: 2(6) and (7)).

Teaching and Organisation

See Staff handbook for details of assembly times.

Prayer

Pupils are invited to join in with prayer (For example, the worship leader may say: "If you would like to join in with me, please say 'Amen' "). However, pupils are not required to join in.

Planning should ensure that all pupils can participate in collective worship without compromising their integrity, personal beliefs or faith. Planning should be educational in all its aspects.

At Bottisham Primary School, collective worship is planned as part of the curriculum, and is appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of our pupils.

Long term planning includes themes for every week, which may include themes from PSHE units. Christian and other festivals are built into the collective worship programme. These themes will be introduced to whole school towards the start of term.

We aim to use a variety of activities during worship, such as stories, readings, drama, music, prayer, visitors and audio visual aids. Every week, a class teacher chooses a piece of music for the children to listen to as they enter the hall. At the beginning of the week, the class teacher will talk about why they have chosen that particular piece, who it is written or performed by and why it has special meaning for them.

Role of Pupil Involvement

Pupils from both key stages are also invited to share their work and celebrate their talents and achievements during a sharing assembly, and celebration assembly.

Worship can be enhanced by the presence of visitors from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures. At Bottisham Primary School this includes our local vicar and other members of the local community.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship if they inform the school in writing of their request. The pupil shall be excused until the request is withdrawn.

Early Years and Foundation

Children in the Early Years follow the Foundation Curriculum and are working towards the Early Learning Goals which link with and lead into the KS1 curriculum.

Pupils in the nursery do not have to attend collective worship. The law requires collective worship to be provided for children in the reception classes.

In the nursery, small group sessions in the classroom are preferable and provide an opportunity for children to reflect upon their place in the immediate environment.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Each subject is monitored through the scrutiny of planning, observation of lessons, interviews with children and scrutiny of work (please see monitoring and evaluation policy).

A record will be kept in the staff room of main themes and resources used in assemblies. This will be updated termly.

Speaking and Listening

Speaking and Listening is an important part of all of our teaching. Public speaking, discussion skills and philosophical debate are all introduced as the children progress through the school. In every subject the development of speaking and listening skills are a part of the planning process.

Equal Opportunities

Throughout the curriculum equal opportunities are a constant consideration (please see the equal opportunities policy).

Health and Safety

A number of curriculum areas require awareness of Health and Safety issues. Children have the right to education in a safe environment and teachers are always aware of the needs to comply with the Health and Safety policy.

Summary

Collective worship makes a valuable contribution to the life of the school. It is a time when pupils are encouraged to view others sensitively and with understanding and it positively influences the spiritual moral and social development of each individual child.

Reviewed May 2016

P. Belzar