

Sharp Lane Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Agreed by SLT	October 2021
Review date	October 2024
Responsible for this policy	E Jones

Introduction

Collective Worship is the expression of worth by a collection of people who may or may not share all beliefs and values in common. It is seen, together with RE, as part of a school's broad and balanced curriculum. Collective worship provides opportunities and meaningful experiences to develop children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The Collective Worship Policy of Sharp Lane Primary is in line with the philosophy and aims of our school. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and community.

Aims

Collective Worship plays a significant part in contributing to the ethos and overall aims of Sharp Lane Primary School. The coming together of pupils and staff in acts of Collective Worship emphasises the fact that the school is a community in which every member is valued and has a contribution to make. Collective Worship gives all pupils the opportunity to express, explore and affirm individual and communal values and needs, including religious values and attitudes.

The 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act, states that 'The majority of acts of Collective Worship are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. At Sharp Lane our collective worship sessions reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief, but they will be non-denominational.

Collective Worship ensures a clear response to diversity, including different religious backgrounds, giving children the opportunity to consider the celebrations and festivals of a number of world religions and consider how the shared philosophies and practices of these religions impact on their daily lives.

Collective Worship gives pupils the opportunity to consider a range of moral issues, with a common link of caring for each other and working together, this enhancing their Spiritual development. Pupils will have the opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection.

Collective Worship, together with the teaching of RE, promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of children at school and within society.

Collective worship aims to help children achieve knowledge and understanding of others and their faiths, thereby encouraging them to act with empathy, respect, tolerance and love.

Planning and Organisation

All pupils participate in daily acts of Collective Worship. To ensure opportunities of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, collective worship at Sharp Lane will address a range of themes and topics.

At Sharp Lane, Collective Worship is organised in three main areas: Whole School (with the exception on Nursery and Reception classes), Key Stage One and Key Stage 2, as well as in class.

All classes (with the exception of Nursery) throughout the school have the opportunity to lead Collective Worship for their Key Stage.

Reception classes and Nursery initially participate in acts of Collective Worship as a class group and then follow a process of gradual integration, over the school year, into Key Stage One acts of Collective Worship.

Opportunities for guest speakers to lead acts of Collective Worship, are provided as appropriate.

Opportunities are provided for parents and governors to participate in acts of Collective Worship, in particular their children's class assemblies.

Parents retain their right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Any pupils withdrawn from Collective Worship will be purposefully occupied and supervised.

Sharp Lane Primary School respects the right of any member of staff to withdraw from acts of Collective Worship.

Management and Co-ordination

The RE co-ordinator is responsible for the long term planning and organisation of Collective Worship.

Individual daily acts of Collective Worship are the responsibility of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Phase Leader, Class teacher or any other person leading the act.

Resources

All resources are centralised and available at all times to all members of staff. A record of themes and content will also be centralised.

Opportunities for continued Professional Development for those involved in leading acts of Collective Worship, are made available as and when appropriate.

Visitors are provided with guidance in the form of Sharp Lane Primary School's Collective Worship policy.

Equal Opportunities

All acts of Collective Worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' (DFES). However, the six major religious faiths; Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism, are addressed in order to develop pupils understanding of other cultures and beliefs.

Contribution to other areas of the Curriculum

Collective Worship is an integral part of the school curriculum, reflecting the ethos of the school and making cross curricular links. Pupils have the opportunity whenever possible to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings through follow up work in discussion in class with particular reference to RE, PSHE, Art and Music.

Health and Safety

Acts of Collective Worship normally take place in the main hall. When pupils are moving to and from the hall, they will do so in a quiet, calm and orderly manner as clearly set out in the school rules. Music will reflect the theme of the worship and will be carefully chosen by a member of staff.

Review and Evaluation

The Collective Worship policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher and RE coordinator. Evaluation and modification will occur as necessary after consultation with all members of staff.

Co-ordinator: Miss E. Jones