



BROOK FIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy Statement

INTRODUCTION

Brook Field offers a daily act of Collective Worship for each pupil. We recognise that this is an important time to provide opportunities for our children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. During each week, pupils meet in a variety of groups, individual classes, smaller groups and as a year group. Most acts of worship are 'Wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' in accordance with 1988 Education Reform Act. They reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief but are non-denominational. Responsibility of the arrangement of Collective Worship rests with the head teacher, in consultation with the governors. Parents can exercise the right to withdraw their children from worship and teachers can also choose to withdraw. (If required please contact the Head teacher.)

AIMS

Collective Worship should be inclusive. In particular, it should:

- Be pupil centred, related to each pupil's age and experience and related to each pupil's concerns;
- Implicitly acknowledge the British Values of diversity and respect each pupil's and teacher's life stance; whether it be religious or not;
- Encourage children to be involved as active participants, should they wish;
- Create a feeling of togetherness and foster a sense of community within the school, sense of shared values, identity, perception and outlook and purpose and refer to the British Values.

Collective Worship should be educational. In particular, it should:

Be a learning experience of quality relating to pupil's own experiences;

- Be an integral part of the school's curriculum;
- Provide opportunities for the school to reflect on its own educational purpose and to celebrate a range of achievements;
- Avoid attempts to indoctrinate, which seek to bring pupils to a particular conviction and are anti-educational.

Collective Worship should be spiritual. In particular, it should:

- Provide a time to gather, to be still and to reflect in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity;
- Be a special time with opportunities or space for individual reflection and a variety of individual responses, including prayer as appropriate.

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMSC)

Through ensuring pupils' SMSC development, Brook Field actively promotes the fundamental British Values - democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and appreciation through collective worship, lessons, stories and displays located around school. Pupils develop an understanding that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. Assemblies are designed to enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.

Collective worship helps to establish our strong school ethos of SMSC through the Brook Field's six values - teamwork, responsibility, respect, honesty, perseverance and creativity. Each term focuses on one of these and all teachers who run assemblies, refer to these, including during singing assemblies. Furthermore, the songs chosen for each term to sing during collective worship often reflect the term's value. Brook Field's school values encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they

can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely. For example, our break time-buddies and school council regularly lead assemblies.

VISITORS

We welcome and invite visitors to lead Collective Worship from time to time. We also have links sent from our Christian community connections for Christian themed assemblies for classes to access and reflect upon. It is important that they recognise the aims and purposes of Collective Worship in our school, as outlined above.

LEADING WORSHIP

We use many approaches to encourage children to reflect more deeply on important issues. They could include:

- The spoken word (poetry, stories, interviews, religious writings, creative writings, factual accounts, thoughts for the day, prayers)
- The sung word (hymns, folk songs, pop songs)
- Visual stimuli (pictures, posters, artefacts, natural objects, works of art, slides, videos)
- Performance (dance, drama, movement, role-play)
- Music (classical, pop, folk, to be used with slides, performed live or as a background)
- Silence (reflection and if appropriate, prayer)
- When referring to particular beliefs, the following phrase is helpful: **'Christians believe that**

ORGANISATION

Once a week each year group will gather in the school hall to participate in an assembly led by either the Executive Head teacher or Head teacher. For the remaining days of the week (other than Friday) a daily experience of collective worship will be led by the class teachers and carried out in each class, smaller groups or year group.

Friday: Whole year group sharing assemblies celebrating all the children's 'steps to success', the week's work and special achievements both in and out of school; led by class teachers. The school value focus is celebrated by awarding children with leaf of achievements, which are displayed at the front of the school.

Throughout the year, it is our aim that each class will be able to hold one Class Assembly to celebrate their class work and achievements. This will be performed in front of their peers and parents.

At the start of most Head Teacher and Key Stage assemblies the children will sing a song linked to the school value focus. At the end of Head Teacher and Key Stage assembly, children will be encouraged to join in with the school prayer.

BROOK FIELD SCHOOL PRAYER

**This is our school,
Let Peace live here,
Let the room be full of happiness.
Let love be all around,
Love of one another,
Love of all people,
And love of life and living.
Let us remember
That, as many hands build a house,
So many hearts build a school.**

**Thank you
Everyone**

RESOURCES

A series of worship themes are available alongside other resources to help with planning for Collective Worship. These are saved centrally: 'Significant Dates and Events'. The Internet can also be used for up-to-date and relevant Collective Worship ideas, i.e. www.assemblies.org.uk. In addition, Assembly links sent from the local church are distributed to all teachers.