

Collective Worship Policy

Date:

Review:

Contents

Statement of intent	3
Organisation and planning	4
Implementation and right to withdraw	5
Right to withdraw	6

Statement of intent

All pupils at Ferndale Primary School are required to take part in a daily act of collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues. The daily act of worship is considered an integral and important part of school life. In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the daily collective worship shall be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is provided through whole school assemblies, phase assemblies, year group assemblies and class assemblies, and is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social, and cultural issues.

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'
- Sandwell SACRE Collective Worship Guidance (2021)

Aims and Objectives

Collective worship aims to:

- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's beliefs, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.

- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Reinforce British Values.
- Celebrate school, faith, local, national and world events that are relevant to our school community.

Definition of Collective Worship

For the purpose of this policy, "collective worship" is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the values which are fundamental to the school's ethos, as well as the wider community. To "take part" in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

Organisation and Planning

The headteacher and RE leader are responsible for creating the timetable and themes for collective worship. The acts of collective worship will be held within whole school assemblies, phases and in individual classes as timetabled. Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher and RE leader.

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship.

Weekly collective worship programme

The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below, but is subject to change:

Monday	Singing assembly
Tuesday	Whole school assembly led by SLT
Wednesday	Class assemblies led by teachers
Thursday	Phase assemblies led by teachers
Friday	Phase merit and celebration assembly

Implementation

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme. The school will arrange for additional support to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as needed.

Right to withdraw

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Head Teacher in writing so that school records are accurate. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred?

We appreciate opportunities to speak with parents who have concerns about collective worship, and we are always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence and those pupils who are withdrawn from worship may not always be supervised by a member of staff, although we will do our best to accommodate this. However, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion. Parents may provide suitable activities for their children when they are withdrawn.