

ASHGATE CROFT SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Approved by Curriculum & Progress Committee meeting: 17th November 2016

Minute No.: 46.2/16 (C/P)

To be reviewed by: Autumn 2018

Introduction

Purpose

This policy is intended to ensure that collective worship take place in accordance with the legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in acts of worship. These acts of worship must be of a broadly Christian element, although a moral theme would be sufficient. They must also be “appropriate having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Aims

- To promote the religious, spiritual, moral, physical and mental wellbeing of all those in the school community.
- To explore certain ideas, activities, attitudes and feelings with a view to understanding them from a religious perspective.
- To celebrate religious events and festivals.
- To consider and celebrate the achievements of individual pupils.
- To mark special events in the school calendar.
- To encourage pupils to see themselves as part of a wider school “family”.

Procedures and Practice

Teaching

Planning

Acts of worship include assemblies and the creed at the end of the day which help to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. The Headteacher, LT, teaching staff and visitors take assemblies on a rota basis taking into account religious festivals and special annual occasions such as Mother’s Day.

Special importance is attributed to the whole school end of term collective act of worship and celebration of achievements.

Through collective worship we hope to give children the opportunity to:

- Reflect on their own and others’ experiences.

- Help children to find out more about themselves.
- Learn more about the world in which they live.
- Consider the beliefs of others and how they influence people.
- Explore prayer.
- Praise God.
- Give opportunities to be still, quiet and reflective.
- Respond to stories and music.
- Develop a caring attitude towards self and others.

Agreed procedures

- Collective worship must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principle religions represented in Great Britain such as Islam, Judaism and Hinduism.
- Pupils will assemble collectively with the rest of their department once a week (Thursday for Middle and Upper, Friday for the Primary).
- All pupils, regardless of religious background should feel able to participate in most collective acts of worship.
- Wherever appropriate and possible, pupils will be encouraged to engage in active participation; with reading prayers, musical performances, drama etc.
- Collective worship should attempt to include elements of religious/moral guidance which are relevant, topical and age/ability appropriate, making use of stories, illustrations from everyday life artefacts, prayers or spiritual songs.
- Music, either of a reflective/calming nature or relevant to the theme of the assembly should be played in the background while pupils arrive at and leave the assembly hall.
- Collective worship in assemblies, wherever possible should include a hymn or song relevant to the theme.
- Assemblies should include a moments of reflection and prayer e.g. pupils or staff could share a prayer or a candle can be lit on which pupils can focus their attention which could be blown out at the end of the prayer to signify the end of this element of the assembly.
- Staff should ensure that key words or phrases are signed in Makaton ensuring the maximum involvement of all pupils.
- Staff are encouraged to involve visitors in their collective worship where their involvement contributes to purpose of assemblies or the values, visions and aims of the school.
- The presentation of certificates and awards will take place before the worship element of the assembly. These will include:
Awarding Certificates of Achievement in Primary and Merit Certificates in Seniors
Good Heart Award
Swimming certificates and other sports awards
- Collective worship should aim to be multi-sensory wherever possible to ensure that all our pupils are included.
- Use of large timetable and individual strips for pupils with autism and other pupils who may benefit.

- Staff should use the microphone/speaker system to ensure that all pupils, in particular those with a hearing impairment can fully participate in the assembly or other act of collective worship.
- Pupils may be withdrawn from the collective act of worship on the request of their parents to the Governing Body. The member of staff organising the collective worship should inform such pupils of any religious content.

Assembly Checklist

Every assembly could include the following elements:

- ✓ Music for students arriving
- ✓ Large timetable and individual strips for pupils with autism and other pupils who may benefit
- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Candle for prayer/reflection
- ✓ Hymn or song
- ✓ Makaton signing
- ✓ Objects of reference and sensory input
- ✓ Use of microphone
- ✓ Music for students leaving.

Role of Subject Leader

- The RE subject leader is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of collective worship.
- Assistant Heads, or identified members of staff will be responsible for producing a schedule for staff or organise individual assemblies for each academic year.
- It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that the assembly guidelines are adhered to.
- It is the RE subject leader's role to monitor collective worship once a term to ensure that the policy is being adhered to.

Parent/Carers Involvement

Parent/Carers are invited to certain assemblies; Leavers Assembly, Mother's Day, Father's Day and the Christmas concert in Primary.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils in school, irrespective of age or ability have access to a curriculum which is differentiated to meet their individual needs.
See Equality Policy.

Monitoring

A record is kept of all collective worship and it is the responsibility of the member of staff taking the assembly to ensure that this is done. This is used as a starting point for future development. There are two books (one for each department) kept in the Office. The RE subject leader will monitor the books therefore ensuring that collective worship are varied and adhere to the RE curriculum.

Children's Rights

Taken from the UN conventions of the rights of the child within PSHE the children's rights which are developed are:

Article 2: The convention applies to everyone: whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, whatever they think, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from

Article 14 – All children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion as long as they are not stopping others from enjoying their rights

Article 28: All children have the right to education

Article 30: Every child has the right to learn and use language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live

Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities

Policy updated by Neil Amos.