

Spratton Hall

Collective Worship Policy



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Title: Collective Worship Policy	Responsible: SJC /CJB /CMW
Date implemented: September 2005	Last Review: September 2018
	Next Review: September 2019

Aims and purpose

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- join together in an act of worship
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- be respectful and respond to the worship offered.
- have a sense of togetherness which engenders a sense of belonging

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- be a dedicated opportunity for children to reflect/respond to the input
- have a clear message
- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils.
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.

There are many ways of enabling worship:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music • dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artefacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

Organisation of collective worship

Regular acts of collective worship are held throughout the week and is organised as follows:

Monday	-	Full School – celebration – awards and notices
Tuesday	-	House
Wednesday	-	Full School - Head Master's Assembly
Thursday	-	Tutor
Friday	-	Full School – visiting speaker or a form assembly

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate manner. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and invite them to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, audio/visual and other objects that act as a focal point for the children.

The Head Master with the Deputy Head Master are mainly responsible for taking assemblies. Other members of staff normally conduct the remaining assemblies on a rota basis. At other times outside speakers are invited, for example, School Chaplain, Heads from our feeder senior schools, representatives from charity organisations and speakers of particular interest.

The themes of our assemblies are expected to reflect Christian values and will, particularly those held at the local church, reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Our assemblies are often a celebration of the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage participation in assemblies by celebrating pupils' work both in and out of the school.

Our assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is fundamentally enabling all children to enjoy a happy and rounded education.

Parents are welcome to attend if their children are included in an assembly. Parents are also welcome to attend both Form assemblies and when visiting speakers address an assembly.

All parents are encouraged to attend services when held at the local church, St Andrew's; this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Inclusion

All children matter and are given every opportunity to achieve their best and this is underlined in the School's Equal Opportunities Policy for Pupils.

We achieve this by planning acts of worship that will meet the needs of all children, irrespective of race, religion, gender, creed and colour, together with those with special educational needs.

We meet needs of all children by:

- Providing resources that reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping
- Using a range of teaching strategies that are based on their needs
- Ensuring access to every activity where it is safe and reasonable to do so.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head Master keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring & Review

The school will review this policy as per the review cycle and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

This policy appears on the School's website: www.sprattonhall.com.

APPENDIX

The 'dedicated' Act of Worship must have:

- a clear message
- a dedicated focus
- the member of staff is clear about how they are leading the children into a period of reflection – input, questions, relevance to age/stage
- a dedicated opportunity for the children to offer a response to the input or to offer a prayer related to the input or an opportunity for silent reflection.
- If there is a prayer, children need to be offered the opportunity to put their hands together or to put their hands in their lap, to listen, be still and reflective and if they wish, to join in the 'amen' response. Prayers can be addressed to 'God'.

It is not appropriate to:

- make the children repeat a prayer if they do not wish
- join their hands if they do not wish
- say 'amen' if they do not wish
- address prayers to a particular higher being other than 'God' e.g., Mary, Jesus, Buddha, Allah
- always have prayers
- intersperse Collective Worship with reflection, silence or discussion.

We expect children to:

- be respectful
- act in an appropriate manner
- have the daily opportunity for a sense of togetherness which engenders a sense of belonging
- have an understanding that the worship is not done for pupils but is an experience for all who attend.

We expect staff to:

- lead where applicable in the agreed manner, including class assemblies
- respond to collective worship in an appropriate manner
- to offer themselves to lead assemblies and collective worship in the agreed format for our school.