



Lea Community Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

What is Collective worship?

The law has never clearly defined Collective worship; however, the government requires an act of daily worship for all pupils in maintained schools. The DfE Circular 1/94, section 50 says;

“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.”

‘Collective Worship’ is a time when the whole school or classes within the school meet together to engage in relevant, meaningful experiences, providing opportunities for the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Worship may be expressed in many different forms including, but not limited to: music, song, drama, prayer, readings and teachings, thoughtful silence, lighting a candle or other symbolic actions.

At Lea Community Primary School, collective worship is set within the context of ‘Assemblies’ and classroom reflection – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.

The collective worship policy at Lea Community Primary School pays due regard to the statutory requirements and has taken into account guidance offered through Lancashire’s SACRE. (Lancashire Standing Advisory Council).

‘Collective worship’ is different to ‘Corporate worship’ as a school is not a faith community gathered with the same beliefs, there are pupils and staff from many different belief backgrounds including those who do not follow any particular tradition and those whose beliefs have no religious or faith dimension and a school community has a wide range of people with different views on what 'worship' might mean and what or whom may be worthy of worship. Therefore, worship in school will be different to that of a group with common beliefs, it must, however, in some sense reflect something special and separate from school activities and pay homage and respect to a divine being or power.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that ‘all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship that should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.’

The DfE Circular 1/94 states that Collective Worship ‘must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.’ According to 1/94 acts of worship that are broadly Christian need not contain only Christian material. For example, some universal concepts such as justice and respect for life are part of broad traditions of Christian belief, and can therefore be used as part of Collective Worship. By broadly Christian we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

We also include:

- marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect a diversity of faiths
- examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings
- stories supporting themes from a range of sources and cultures
- response to key local, national and international events
- providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs
- putting things into practice e.g. supporting charities
- providing a moment for silent reflection/prayer
- celebration of successes of members of the school community
- performances or presentations from members of the school community
- input from visiting speakers

Acts of Collective Worship at Lea Community Primary School take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Collective Worship may happen at any time of the day and must take place on school premises. The act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings or key stage groupings.

The legal responsibility for ensuring that Collective Worship requirements are met lies with the Head Teacher. The character and content of Collective Worship in schools is determined by the Governing Body in accordance with Lancashire's SACRE.

Aims and purpose

During Collective worship we aim to:

- contribute to the development of the child as a 'whole' person
- encourage pupils to develop awareness of the universal moral principles of right and wrong, justice and fairness and concern for the fate of others and the world;
- add to the pupils' development of an awareness of, and a sense of belonging to, the many different dimensions of the schools' community;
- share an experience which promotes thought and reflection;
- further promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response and
- reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Day	Worship	Led by
Monday	In class worship	Class teacher
Tuesday	Whole school worship	Different staff
Wednesday	In class worship	Class teacher
Thursday	In class worship	Class teacher
Friday	Whole school Worship	Lynne Slater

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a new theme for Collective Worship based on school values/ British Values, curriculum drivers and response to key local, national and international events. These are published at the beginning of each half term. Those leading worship will take into consideration the ages, backgrounds and beliefs of all present. The themes are broad and therefore allow staff leading worship to approach the theme from their perspective. This will ensure that children will have the opportunity to explore the theme from different viewpoints. During the whole school assembly staff stay with the children to promote a sense of community. In each assembly there will be a short time given to reflect on the theme, which will be given homage away from that of the assembly. To focus attention staff will ensure they use a form, as previously mentioned.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

We at Lea Community, seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The school council representatives regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings back to the school's council lead.

Celebrating Achievements

Assemblies may also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding celebration assemblies and class assemblies, during which children may show their work and share successes with others and can raise issues that they have discussed in their classes. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow and Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the screen, a moment of silence and reflection etc.

The School Community

Assemblies are non-denominational and conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community. Assemblies are regarded as a special time in the day that provide periods of calm reflection and are conducted accordingly. Children are expected to be respectful and thoughtful and are asked to come in and leave assemblies in a quiet manner.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Lea Community Primary School, we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, excluding the Head Teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship. This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies. Any member of staff wishing to be excluded from collective worship, needs to discuss this with the Head Teacher.

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