

Collective Worship Policy

1. Introduction

Selby Community Primary School is a primary school, in North Yorkshire, catering for children aged from 3 to 11

This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

2. Policy statement

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

The aims of collective worship in Selby Community Primary School are:

- Reflect on beliefs, traditions and 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
- Participate in, and respond to, the worship
- Reflect on their own lives, feelings and experiences
- Experience different elements of worship eg celebration, reverence, sense of awe/wonder, praise, silence, ritual, symbolism.
- Celebrate success

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.

Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, which are contrary to their family background.

They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.

Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow, etc.

Collective worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated. The Headteacher will report termly to the governing body on the themes covered in the daily acts of collective worship and how they complement the school's aims and values. At other times parents, staff and pupils may be consulted about the quality, effectiveness and impact of collective worship.

3. The legal requirements: the Education Reform Act 1988

Organisation

Monday – whole school assembly
Tuesday – singing assembly
Wednesday – Key Stage assembly
Thursday – in class worship
Friday – Celebration assembly

Style and Character

- The school provides a daily act of worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Interpreting the law for our school

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Parents are asked to contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns.

Arrangements for those children withdrawn from Collective Worship

It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case the following arrangements will be made. Children will remain in class.

4. The content of Collective Worship

Collective Worship may include the following:

- Prayer, reflection and meditation
- Consideration of different viewpoints on central issues
- Music, singing, drama, dance
- Story, poetry, artefacts, visual arts
- Discussion
- Celebration of religious festivals
- Celebration of ways of helping others
- Pupils' own experiences
- Aspects of the school curriculum, pupils' work and school activities
- Celebration of the involvement and achievements of the school community
- Links with the local community
- Contributions from people from outside the school
- National and international events and issues

The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils: to provide opportunities for reflection: to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

5. Conclusion

Collective Worship is an opportunity to:

- promote a sense of community
- be educational
- promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development
- be a special time
- enable participants to be actively involved

Policy written by Ian Clennan

Date February 2015

Approved February 2015

To be reviewed February 2017