



CHERRY GARDEN SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

STATUS:

DRAFT

AGREED

Review Date:

June 2020

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Agreed by Governing Body

June 2017

Filename: M: School Policies/Collective Worship

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

This policy is intended to ensure consistency across the school in term of collective worship. Collective worship at Cherry Garden School happens in accordance with Southwark SACRE guide-lines and is mainly of a broadly Christian character and also reflects the attitudes, views and beliefs of those present in a manner suitable to the ages and abilities of the students.

Aims

We aim for collective worship to give the school opportunity to reflect upon and reaffirm shared values, to sustain and support the traditions of the home and of the faith communities of the pupils, and promote understanding and appreciation of spiritual and moral values.

Collective worship at Cherry Garden School aims specifically:

- To foster a sense of community by bringing pupils together and encouraging sensitivity to the needs of others
- To increase sensitivity to the beauty, power & mysteries of the world
- To create an atmosphere for silence & quiet reflection
- To provide a time for sharing achievements in personal and school life
- To experience and reflect on common ethos and shared values
- To share worship in as far as pupils are able
- To experience and respond to a range of diverse religious beliefs

Through the experience of worship it is hoped that a sense of reverence, awe, wonder, mystery, a sense of pattern, sequence & order and a sense of uniqueness, self worth, identity & thoughtfulness will develop.

Strategies for Delivery

- All pupils at school must be involved in the daily act of worship unless parent requests a pupil is not included*
- The content of collective worship may be:
 - Christian stories or themes
 - Moral values
 - Celebrations of achievement of individuals or groups
 - Celebrations of what has been learned in the classroom
 - Celebrations of religious festivals
 - Learning about different religions, cultural groups or communities
 - Celebration of patterns of life such as leavers or Birthdays
 - Provision of spiritual experiences & development of spiritual awareness

Collective worship contributes to the religious education of pupils but is not a substitute for it and there should be no confusion between the two.

**Parents are asked to discuss with Headteacher*

Collective worship is held at a number of suitable times in the day. Likewise collective worship happens both in small groups and as a single act of worship for all.

At Cherry Garden School, collective worship takes the form of:

- A whole school assembly on Friday afternoons (see appendix)
- Daily thanksgiving before lunch as a class group which includes lighting a candle and a song.
- Daily opportunity for fostering a sense of fellowship & achievement i.e. good-morning group
- Opportunities within the week as a class group for reflection & silence e.g relaxation at the end of the movement session or small group massage.
- Annual whole school celebrations & events such as Harvest Festival and Nativity.

In planning collective worship we recognize that pupils come from different backgrounds of various denominations of Christianity and other world faiths and ensure that collective worship is not a vehicle for religious indoctrination.

A range of strategies to worship are employed including creative silence, prayer, dance & drama, songs, music, stories, artefacts and natural materials.

In the planning of acts of worship the school takes into account themes from the school calendar of events, the calendars of the various religions, the international calendars & other world events.

Resources relevant to Friday assemblies are kept centrally. Many resources associated with whole-school collective worship can be found in the centrally located RE resources. Other resources related to class-based collective worship should be permanently located in classrooms.

Assessment, Recording & Reporting

- Teachers observations will be recorded in writing and through photographs, videos etc. as appropriate
- The 'Good News Book' records celebrations of achievement from whole school assemblies and is available to children, staff and visitors in the entrance area to the school
- IEP folders record individual achievement which is celebrated through class-based and whole-school collective worship

Health & Safety

We aim to deliver collective worship in accordance with Health and Safety regulations. Staff refer to both our own Health and Safety policy and the ASE booklet 'Be Safe', to which reference should be made for risk assessment. Artifacts that are not made for unsupervised use by children should be kept in a safe place and only be used under adult supervision. Adults should closely supervise the use of candles for daily collective worship & Birthday celebrations.

Monitoring

- Each class teacher is responsible for including opportunities for class-based collective worship in their planning

- The head-teacher is responsible for ensuring that collective worship occurs in school according to the SACRE guidelines
- The senior leadership team will look at school-wide planning each term and should offer advice, experience and ideas to colleagues. This should be done through feedback about plans as well as sharing knowledge and ideas.
- Planning of the content of assemblies will be the responsibility of the teacher in charge.
- Recording the achievements of individual children is the responsibility of the class teacher and other staff working with that child

Equal Opportunities

We ensure that all children have equal access to collective worship on a daily basis. We use a wide range of resources that reflect and celebrate the diversity of the children in our school and the wider community and a variety of teaching approaches to ensure all the students can access the resources. We provide opportunities for dealing with religious diversity in Britain and our local community. We actively avoid stereotypes by using examples of positive role models wherever possible. We endeavor to ensure that the celebration of achievements of all children happens on an equal basis and have introduced an equal opportunities monitoring system to ensure that this happens. Staff should also refer to the school Equal Opportunities Policy.

Parents

Parents are encouraged to contribute to collective worship by sending in artifacts, music, etc, which reflect their children's life-experience. They are also encouraged to share their own experiences through visits, photographs etc.

- Parents are invited to attend special assemblies & to contribute wherever possible.
- The religious & cultural beliefs & values of parents are respected at all times.

Appendix 1 Assembly

Assembly starts at 2.30, and finishes by 3pm

It is important for assemblies to follow a similar routine, so the pupils are familiar with the session.

Music should be playing when classes enter, and while waiting for everyone to settle in.

The theme of the assembly is run by a class or headteacher/deputy headteacher and each week a class is responsible for the assembly, the rota for this is organized by the deputy Headteacher*

Next any good news is celebrated, and stickers and certificates are handed out to celebrate the week's achievements.

Birthdays are also celebrated.

The assembly finishes with a prayer which is in the form of a song.

** Occasionally a themed assembly may be held off site e.g Harvest Festival*