

Collective Worship Policy

Review date: September 2028

Statement of intent

All pupils at Drayton Junior School are required to take part in daily collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

At Drayton Junior School, the daily act of worship is considered an integral and important part of school life. In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the daily collective worship shall be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"[1], though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is mainly, although not exclusively, provided in a daily whole-school collective worship.

[1] DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship', pg.21, para.60

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1.2. This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

2. Policy aims

2.1. Collective worship at Drayton Junior School aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to reflect and give thanks through prayer and grace
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

3. Definition of collective worship

For the purpose of this policy, **"collective worship"** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos.

4. Organisation and planning

4.1. The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship.

4.2. The act of worship will be held for 15 minutes daily from 10.00am-10.15 am in the school hall. Each class will also say grace at 12.30pm daily.

4.3. Each Collective Worship will be underpinned by a Christian theme or value.

4.4. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

4.5. The headteacher will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school. We currently follow Simply Collective Worship and supplement this with additional themes pertinent to local and national events.

4.6. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

5. Implementation

5.1. The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, stories, resources and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, grace etc.

6. Right to withdraw

6.1. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

6.2. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.

6.3. Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

7. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

7.1. The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

7.2. The school will arrange for teaching assistants to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

Linked Policies
Spirituality Policy