

Thorney Island Community Primary School
Collective Worship Policy

Aims

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

- worship God
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and develop their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond and reflect to the worship offered.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we usually base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organization of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is usually a whole-school assembly. Once a week however, we hold separate Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assemblies.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns/songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes the regimental padre or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often 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. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to

acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Thorney Island Community Primary School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all children in assemblies.

We invite parents and governors to special assemblies throughout the year and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes community cohesion and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

Lunchtime Prayer

All children are encouraged to join in and say a prayer before they begin eating their lunch. This is suitable to the age group of the children.

Early Years Foundation Stage and Year 1:

'Thank-you for the world so sweet, thank-you for the food we eat, thank-you for the birds that sing, thank-you Lord for everything. Amen'.

Year 2-6:

'Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed, Amen'.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Religious Education lessons and collective worship. However, in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of R.E and collective worship. In order to avoid misunderstanding, any parent wishing to withdraw their child may arrange a meeting with the Head teacher to discuss:

- The religious issues about which the parent would object to his/her child being taught;
- The practical implications of withdrawal such as supervision and alternative activities;

One should note that withdrawal applies only, in the case of R.E., to a designated R.E. lesson - not general class discussion time where religious issues may arise. The head teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from explicit Religious Education lessons or collective worship.

Monitoring and review

The school will review this policy in line with the approved review schedule and at this time assess its effectiveness.

Signed:

Date: