



Leighfield Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body 6th December 2016

School Aims

We aim for our children to

- Reach their full potential
- Develop a positive self-image
- Be responsible and make informed choices

We

- Provide a supportive and caring environment
- Promote high achievement
- Encourage independent learning

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of Leighfield Academy. We have pupils and staff in our school who have a range of different beliefs and faiths and through collective worship we provide opportunities for them to develop a positive self-image.

Collective Worship plays an important part in the life of our school. It enables everyone to have the opportunity to reflect and participate.

The 1988 Education reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.

All maintained schools must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. Such pupils would be fully supervised in another part of the school.

Definitions

Worship - can be defined as paying homage to (referring) that which is of worth ("Worthship"). Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of "worth" which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attributes.

Collective Worship - is a gathering of a "collection" of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.

Corporate Worship - is a gathering of a body ("corpus") of believers and pre-supposes a particular religious commitment.

School Assembly - is a gathering of the school community, it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

The Purpose of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship:

- Gives children the opportunity to learn about religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, and prayer.
- Brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community through creating a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere.
- Encourages pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs, consider fundamental questions about life and to respect the beliefs of others.
- Helps children distinguish between right and wrong.
- Celebrates individual and collective achievements.
- Celebrates religious festivals and special occasions.
- Provides an opportunity for reflection and contemplation and to participate in religious worship for those who want to.
- Makes an important contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Organisation

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place in school. Each term the worship follows a planned theme which teachers and visitors are encouraged to follow when appropriate.

The structure of assemblies usually includes music and song, a story or talk, a period of reflection and a prayer. Most assemblies are for the whole school but some key stage or class collective worship acts also take place.

The children in Reception Class do not join in all assemblies at the start of the year but join in an increasing number as the year progresses.

Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major world faiths. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is encouraged.

Visitors and outside speakers are also invited to lead our worship.

Parents are invited to join us for special assemblies led by the children, such as Harvest and Spring.

All pupils have equal opportunities to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience.

Role of Co-ordinator

The Collective Worship co-ordinator will:

- Co-ordinate the planning of Collective Worship
- Evaluate the impact of Collective Worship,
- Audit resources and purchase new ones in line with school development priorities.
- Feedback strengths, weaknesses and points for development to governors as required.
- Identify priorities for school development planning and implement resulting actions.

Resources

Staff, pupils, visiting speakers

Candle and nominations box

Selection of religious artifacts

Selection of assembly topic books for teachers

Selection of assembly song books

Online resources

Music CDs

Piano, instruments

CD player

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The co-ordinator monitors the impact of Collective Worship in the school, including the effect on pupil attitudes and behaviour throughout the day and report this to the Senior Leadership Team.
- Areas for school development will be included in the School Development Plan and will be monitored by the co-ordinator, Senior Leadership Team and governors.
- This policy will be fully reviewed two years after approval and may be subject to interim amendments if necessary.