

Woolenwick Junior School

Policy for Collective Worship

Policy Name	Collective worship
Created by	school
Responsibility of	Improvement committee
Reviewed by	MC
This Review Date	Jan 2015
Next Review Due	2019
Cycle	4 years
Ratified by Governing Body on	21/1/15
Policy will be published	website

Version History

Version	Amendments	Date	Author
V1	Original document	Jan 2015	MC

Statutory Requirements

Collective worship at Woolenwick Junior School complies with legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states that 'Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief.'

Such beliefs that are broadly Christian are inclusive of other major world faiths. Examples are God, love, justice, peace, good, evil, greed, poverty, war, famine, charity, pollution, morality, tolerance, co-operation, prejudice and selfishness. Thus, if a broad and flexible approach is adopted, collective worship will not affect the integrity of anyone taking part at our school and may develop the spiritual awareness of every individual.

Principles of Collective Worship and Assembly

Collective worship is the daily act of coming together for pupils and staff in an atmosphere of mutual respect to explore, reflect on and celebrate all aspects of life in and out of school. It usually takes place during the daily assembly.

Collective Worship...

- Is a spiritual occasion for pupils and staff to reflect upon questions concerning ultimate reality and the search for meaning and purpose in life?
- Provides a time for reflection on people's own experiences, a time to recognise and celebrate the values and beliefs of the whole community both in school and the wider world
- Celebrates the highest aspirations and achievements of human spirit throughout ages and across barriers of race, time, class, gender and religion.
- Lifts the participants above the level of the ordinary, reaching out also to that which is above and beyond the individual
- Should be inclusive where all pupils are capable of responding.
- Should ensure the rights of each individual to respond as a unique individual and not as a member of a body of believers

Assembly ...

- Is a gathering of part or all of the school
- Is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life.
- Contains an act of worship within it

Aims of Collective Worship

In Collective Worship we aim

- To reflect and nurture the whole ethos of the school.
- To develop a feeling of belonging to a community.
- To show interest in and concern for members of the school community and the wider world.
- To celebrate special occasions together.
- To show concern for daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world.
- To share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- To celebrate success.
- To explore and review the variety of values, attitudes and standards present in society.
- To reflect on the dimensions of human life – the wonderful and the tragic
- To consider ways in which people express their feelings through religions and philosophies, through worship, prayer ritual and celebration.
- To create an opportunity for worship for those able to use it and provide a fertile medium for learning about the worship for others.

Strategies for Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to

- Create the right atmosphere for an act of worship.
- Ensure a variety of styles of presentation and participation (teacher led, pupil/teacher led, class led, group led, visitor led.)
- Involve children in a collective act which enables worship in their own terms through the use of music and song, stories, readings, dance, drama, children's contributions, visual aids, prayer, meditation, moments of silence, demonstration, video, poetry, slides, photographs, pupils work, discussion, artefacts and natural materials.
- Draw on the significant events in the lives of people worthy of celebration and respect.

- Designate a special time in school for children to develop a reflective approach to life and an ability to express their reflections in an appropriate manner.
- Enable children to focus their thoughts and respond in their own personal way.
- Ensure that the content of songs invites participation so that pupils feel at one with those around them and are able to respond in a natural way.
- Ensure that it is educational in helping the moral and spiritual of pupils through the exploration of faiths other than their own.
- Provide an opportunity for children to take responsibility for preparing the assembly.
- Prayer is used for those who feel they can participate and for others to use for reflection so as to safeguard the atmosphere in which prayer can take place.

Organisation

- An act of Collective Worship will take place each day. This will normally be in the afternoon.
- It may involve whole school, year group, or individual class.
- The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, other teachers, groups of children or visitors, may lead assemblies.
- There is an assembly each day
- Friday Assembly will normally be a Class Assembly that celebrates a class's achievement and success. It starts at 9.00 to encourage Parents to attend.

Responsibilities within Collective Worship

The Headteacher, as the person who organises the planning for school worship ensures that

- Colleagues, pupils and visitors are aware of the overall programme, planning, programme, planning and participation
- Collective Worship has time allocated for discussion and evaluation
- Support is provided for colleagues and pupils
- A collection of ideas and suitable resources continues to develop
- There is an awareness of the possibilities of worship whether religious, secular, local or world wide.

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual, whatever gender, and ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Special Educational Needs

At Woolenwick Junior School we are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made to ensure that materials are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship

The main aim of collective worship at Woolenwick junior school is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel that they have to remove their child from collective worship as this breaks down the unity of the school.

Parents do however have the right to remove their children without any explanation. As a school we pride ourselves on good communication with parents and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective worship so that misunderstanding and confusion as to its nature can be avoided

The headteacher is not responsible for providing alternative worship but does ensure that these children have adequate supervision.

Evaluation of Collective Worship

Collective worship will be evaluated for the impact that it has on raising children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. This will be judged through:

- The involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils.
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community.
- Positive response to shared experience.
- An atmosphere that matches the theme.
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well-being.
- A sense of occasion.
- Good order.
- Staff affirmation.
- A sense of challenge.
- A place in the overall plan of the school.
- Enrichment of pupils' experience.