

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Green Lane Primary and Nursery School



Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

The Collective Worship Policy of Green Lane Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE. Collective worship plays an important part in our ensuring the development of pupils' spiritual and emotional development. We observe Christian festivals-Christmas, Easter and Collective worship is embedded in the curriculum.

Legal Requirements

As stated in the DFE Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship para 50-88....

Requirements relating to management and organisation.

"All registered pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily collective worship" (para 51).

"The parental right to withdraw a child from attending collective worship should be freely exercisable and a school must give effect to any such request. Parents are not obliged to state their reason for seeking withdrawal" (para 85)

"Collective worship, subject to the right of withdrawal, is intended to be appropriate for and to include all pupils attending a school" (para 54).

"The timing and organisation of daily collective worship can be flexible. It need not be held at the start of the school day. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups. For this purpose, a 'school group' means any group, or combination of groups in which pupils are taught or take part in other school activities; it does not mean a group reflecting particular religious beliefs, for which different provision may be made" (para 55).

"As a rule, all acts of collective worship should take place on the school premises. County and controlled schools which also wish to hold acts of collective worship off the school premises may do so, provided these are in addition to the daily statutory act of collective worship which must still be held on school premises" (para 56).

"All maintained schools are required under the Education Regulations 1993 to include in their annual prospectus information about parents' rights to withdraw their children from religious worship, either in whole or in part and to provide alternative provision for pupils who are withdrawn" (para 123).

Definition of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of assessment in our school are:

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of our school and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

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For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be part of a culture

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in our school, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The organisation of collective worship

Collective worship takes place during assembly in the hall and also through small groups within the classroom. Members of staff lead collective worship in their classrooms and during assemblies. A daily 'act of worship' or contemplation takes place such as listening to a piece of music, reading a poem or a thought for the day. Visitors from local religious organisations may also lead the school in collective worship.

Use of Prayer and Reflection

All acts of collective worship which take place within the school provide children with opportunities through which they can worship God if they want to, and to this end all will include some time for reflection or prayer. The prayers which are used may come from a Christian tradition or they may be taken from another faith. Before any prayer is said it is made clear that although they listen to the prayer the children do not have to join in and are invited to say "Amen" only if they agree with what has been said.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Head teacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.