



Dedicated to Excellence

Ox Close Primary School

Approved by Governing Body on 4th February 2016

Collective Worship Policy



The collective worship policy at Ox Close Primary School pays due regards to legal requirements and is consistent with the guidelines offered by the SACRE of Durham Education Authority.

This collective worship policy reflects the spirit of Ox Close Primary School and is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship is the time set aside from other aspects of school life, when pupils are given the opportunity to learn and reflect on a variety of issues which may, if pupils wish to do so, evoke a worshipful response.

Aims of Collective Worship

"Pupils who do not come from Christian families should be able to join in the daily act of collective worship even though this would, in the main, reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief"

(Circular 1/94)

In Ox Close Primary School, we aim to provide all pupils **with the opportunity to:**

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- develop a community spirit
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond

It is also our aim to promote a common ethos and shared values.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective worship can contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils through:

- reflection on their own beliefs and values, and those of others
- influence of values on behaviour
- celebrating together
- Celebration of own and others' religious and cultural traditions.

Collective worship can contribute to other areas of the curriculum, enriching classwork, providing different perspectives, promoting thought and understanding and encouraging the quest for further study

The Contribution of the Curriculum to Collective Worship

We believe that it is sound educational practice to draw on and from all areas of the curriculum (not just R.E.) and the outside world in order to provide valuable experiences in collective worship.

The Relationship between Collective Worship and SEAL

There are some excellent topics in the SEAL materials which will provide scope for planning effective collective worship. The aim of Ox Close Primary School will be to dovetail the requirements of both with the specific needs of the school, in the school's long term planning for collective worship. The distinction between assemblies and collective worship should be maintained, however, and extra SEAL assemblies should not replace collective worship.

The Management of Collective Worship

The collective worship coordinator, in collaboration with the Senior Management Team, will manage Collective Worship (Appendix 2).

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or classroom.

Acts of collective worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be reduced or extended when it is appropriate.

Leadership of Collective Worship

Every member of the school staff, each class group and occasional visitors **may** be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

All acts of collective worship will be considered carefully, to ensure that the age, aptitude and background of all pupils are taken into account.

Termly planning sheets list a separate theme for each week, and include special occasions and events, but this will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets (Appendix 5), these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Visitors

Visitors will be welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and will be given guidance on leading acts of collective worship at Ox Close Primary School (Appendix 6). Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of collective worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of collective worship. A variety of resources will also be used (Appendix 8). Leaders will choose the style and/or strategy and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

It is the combination of content and the appropriate method of delivery that will ensure that the act of worship has a spiritual dimension.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This response may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response either through reflection or prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. **Announcements may be made preceding the act of worship but a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.** (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc)

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 Headteacher. Arrangements will be made for a child who is withdrawn to be supervised.

Appendices

Appendix 1 *The Role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator*

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Collaborating with the Senior Leadership Team to organise collective worship.
- Organising visitors for an act of worship
- Resources (buying, advising staff on use, providing access)
- Displaying weekly planning and recording sheets, and termly planning sheets
- Collating evidence of practice
- INSET / CPD provision for staff and self
- Planning for and recording of acts of worship leaders

Appendix 2 *Planning and Evaluating Collective Worship*

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator and the Senior Leadership Team will hold regular meetings to discuss planning, monitoring and evaluation of acts of collective worship.

Planning

- Themes for future acts of worship
- Visitors to lead acts of worship
- Purchasing of resources
- Content of each weekly theme
- The acts of collective worship development plan.

Monitoring

The team will ensure that acts of worship fulfill the legal requirements and maintain the spirit of the law. In particular that:

- Acts of worship are in the main of a wholly or broadly Christian nature
- Other religions are considered and included
- Acts of worship contribute to the spiritual, moral social and cultural development of all pupils
- Acts of worship draw on areas of the curriculum
- Acts of worship contribute to areas of the curriculum

Evaluation

The team will review the evaluation of each act of worship to assess the value of the organisation and the process of acts of worship, and to aid future planning.

This policy will be evaluated and reviewed annually.