



Knypersley First School
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY 2021

The Collective Worship Policy in respect of the School has been discussed and adopted by the Local Advisory Board in Spring 2021

Chair of Board: *Mr C. Clulow*

Responsible *Headteacher – Mrs E. Goodyear*

Agreed and ratified by the Local Advisory Board 1st Feb 2021

To be reviewed: *Jan 2023*



Collective Worship Policy 2021

(To be read in conjunction with the school's RE and PSHRE policies)

The overall intent of our school curriculum is to:

Recognise uniqueness: in our pupils, staff, resources and whole school community

Be Inclusive: recognizing learning styles, learning needs at all levels and providing solutions to any barriers to learning we encounter

Engage and Inspire: Through knowledge rich, highly enriched, progressive and purposeful contexts

Promote Aspiration: offering challenge and accountability

Create citizens of the Future: who thrive on responsibility, see difference as a strength of our community and use democracy to embed their own values and beliefs.

Our curriculum strives to drive all of these intentions and links very closely to the achievement and development of them all.

Rationale

Collective Worship forms an integral part of our school's wider personal development intent and is underpinned by our school's values. We support children to develop the knowledge, skills and the understanding that they need to lead confident, healthy and independent lives and become responsible citizens of the future. We recognise that our school vision is crucial to this learning and should be at the heart of whole-school development.

Intent

Our aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- to encourage participation and response.
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit.
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- To teach children how to worship.

Collective worship

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.
- While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider society.

Implementation

- We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly or a class assembly.

- 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 children to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns.
- The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local community groups.
- We take the themes of our assemblies from some traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum including through PHSRE Ed.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.
- Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.
- There are class led assemblies that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

Impact

Collective Worship serves as a key part of our overall PSHRE Ed and SMSC curriculum and forms part of our wider whole school approach to personal, social, moral and cultural development of pupils. Through Collective Worship children will:

- Develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness.
- Engage with the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, respect and tolerance of those with differing faiths and beliefs.
- Understand and act on our School values in all areas of school life
- Explore and develop their own values and beliefs.

Right of withdrawal

- We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Role of Leaders

- Plan an effective and varied schedule of monitoring so that they know the Quality of Collective Worship well.
- Provide clear updates to the Local Advisory Board, Headteacher and SLT.