



Dropmore Infant School
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Headteacher: Miss Amy Douglas
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Chair of Governors: Mr Tim Wicks

Policy No: 053

Policy Title: Collective Worship Policy

Issue No: 006

Effective Date: May 2024

Next Review Date: May 2027

Approved by Chair of Governors: 

Date: 10/05/2024

1. Aims and Purpose:

We believe at Dropmore Infant School that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially and culturally is reflected in our worship.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide the opportunity for children and staff to:

- ◆ experience a variety of styles of worship;
- ◆ celebrate together e.g. festivals, school values, individual achievements;
- ◆ build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;
- ◆ develop a reflective approach to living which sometimes encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
- ◆ look beyond the physical, material and measurable;
- ◆ worship God or reflect on human values;
- ◆ consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- ◆ participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- ◆ feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above.

2. Collective Worship:

Collective worship is where members of the school community gather together and an act of worship takes place. Collective worship is intended to be appropriate for, and to include, all pupils attending the school, regardless of their own personal faith.

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. In our collective worship we reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominationally biased. We also do so in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

In our collective worship, we may also reflect broadly on the traditions and beliefs of others faiths represented in the school and wider community, for instance celebrating a festival such as Diwali or Eid.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship:

Collective worship takes place as a whole school in the hall or as a year group in the classroom. Acts of worship usually last for approximately 5-10 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Collective worship should not be confused with our assemblies. We may include time for collective worship within our assemblies. When doing this we use a variety of strategies e.g. music, asking for silence etc to indicate to all present when worship begins and ends.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs.

Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus. We encourage pupils who prefer not to pray to use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Where songs are included in our acts of worship, appropriate music is chosen each week and children's attention drawn to the composer and style of music. A wide range of music has been introduced including classical, jazz, opera, contemporary, music from other cultures and traditions, as well as some Christian songs.

Teaching staff leading collective worship discuss planning during staff meetings using the school topics and curriculum plans for the year as ideas to build from.

The school welcomes visitors to support in collective worship. Visitors are told our policy and guidance by the RE Lead or/or Headteachers to ensure they are clear about our values. We have close links with the local church and the Reverend visits every term to take part in collective worship. The children also visit the church for collective worship on special occasions such as Harvest Festival and Christmas.

Where appropriate pupils are involved in collective worship, for instance children in Year 2 are offered a chance to stand up and led the school reflection.

4. Management of Collective Worship:

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

- The RE Lead draws up ideas for themes and topics during the school year
- The RE Lead or Headteacher observe at least 4 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per year to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.
- Teacher and pupil views are collected annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved.

5. Right of Withdrawal:

Parents can request permission for their child to be excused from attending collective worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. When collective worship happens during an assembly, we would expect the child to attend the 'assembly' part of the proceeding but can then withdraw from the worship.

Teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

6. Equality Impact Assessment:

At Dropmore Infant School we provide a broad and balanced curriculum to all pupils, irrespective of special educational or medical needs or protected characteristics. Teachers provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of the children, respect all faiths and ensure all children are able to take part in the activities planned

7. Monitoring and Review:

This policy will be reviewed every three years or in accordance with any statutory guidelines. The RE Lead and Headteacher undertake regular observations of class-based collective worship. This ensures broad and balanced content and coverage of all community faiths.