

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: Full Governing Body

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Knowledge



Spark



Humanity



Grit



Team

Introduction

Our community in Leeds is rich in its breadth of religious traditions. Many faiths are represented at our school as are the wishes of families with no particular religious affiliation.

The school has due regard to the Leeds agreed syllabus on RE and Collective Worship in planning the opportunities and experiences we offer children. We teach from a scheme called Discovery RE for our RE learning and cover Collective worship in a range of ways, both in class and school assemblies. Collective worship encompasses all faith groups providing opportunities to celebrate and reflect on all major religious festivals and holy days. At Clapgate, every pupil takes part in collective worship every day.

The purpose of Collective Worship

The main aims of collective worship are as follows:

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole.
- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Assemblies should:

- Provide children with the knowledge and insight into values and beliefs that enable them to reflect on their experiences in a way which develops their spiritual awareness and self-knowledge (spiritual).
- Teach the principles which distinguish right from wrong (moral).
- Encourage children to relate positively to others, take responsibility, participate fully in the community and develop an understanding of citizenship (social).
- Teach children to appreciate their own cultural traditions and the diversity and richness of other cultures (cultural).

The principles of Collective Worship

At Clapgate all assemblies/acts of collective worship are based on the principles that they should be inclusive, educational and spiritual.

To ensure assemblies are inclusive we aim to ensure that they:

- are pupil-centred, related to children's own experience and relevant to children's concerns
- acknowledge diversity
- involve children as active participants
- meet the needs of the children
- foster a sense of community

To ensure assemblies are educational we aim to ensure that they:

- are learning experiences
- are well-planned
- relate to other curriculum activities
- provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- celebrate educational achievements
- are consistent with the aims and values of the school

To ensure assemblies are spiritual we aim to ensure that they:

- provide a time to reflect
- be a special time – conducive to worship
- enable children to feel calm, relaxed and secure
- include a variety of words, music and images
- provide an opportunity for children to participate in collective worship

As a result, the main aims of Collective Worship can be summarised as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for an experience of worship.
- To provide opportunities for children to reflect on the values of the school community and the community it serves.
- To deepen and widen children's emotional responses.
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different responses.
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder, interdependence with the natural world, pattern, sequence and order, self-worth and value of others
- To develop awareness that life involves choices of belief, attitude, behaviour and relationships and that there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life.

Planning and implementing Collective Worship

Where possible, links are made to whole school initiatives or issues of national importance, e.g. remembrance and anti-bullying. The school will also periodically invite representatives of different faiths from the community to participate in assemblies. As well as this, on days where there is no assembly, collective worship takes place in class. This can be through discussing the current news, focusing on a key question or sharing moral stories or dilemmas.

Assemblies are planned on a weekly basis. The themes:

- promote spiritual, cultural, social and moral development,
- provide opportunities to celebrate religious festivals and share stories from various religions,
- enable the children to reflect on matters of importance,
- offer the children the opportunity to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music-making, hymns, drama, role-play, the visual arts, silent thought and discussion.

The arrangements for assemblies and collective worship are as follows:

Monday: In class collective worship
Tuesday: Singing focused assembly
Wednesday: KS2 assembly and KS1 in class collective worship
Thursday: KS1 assembly and KS2 in class collective worship
Friday: Foundation Stage and KS1 celebration assembly
KS2 celebration assembly