



Collective Worship Philosophy

Assemblies are an essential element in the life of any school. Regent Farm First School upholds its statutory responsibility to hold a daily act of worship which is mainly Christian in nature and through which pupils are taught high moral values, concern for others and respect for one's neighbour. On other occasions children are also educated about a variety of cultures and world religions and are taught to show respect for these.

During normal lessons, there will be many occasions when similar philosophies of care and consideration are promoted.

Staff utilise assembly time to speak to the whole school as a collective group or in key stages on matters which are relevant to their age, interests and understanding.

We are also involved with the local churches who regularly deliver collective worship to our pupils.

Parents may ask for their child/children to be excused from an assembly or RE lesson by request to the Head Teacher.



Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Regent Farm First School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA.

The Collective Worship Policy of Regent Farm First School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

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 of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Regent Farm 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

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 human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Regent Farm First 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 classwork 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 Management of Collective Worship

The RE Co-ordinator will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

Collective Worship will be led by the head teacher, deputy head teacher or class teachers. Visitors will be invited to lead Collective Worship where appropriate. Representatives from Gosforth Churches regularly lead our Collective Worship. We welcome many members of the local community, charities and religious groups into school.

Collective Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

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

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

A Typical Week of Collective Worship

Monday – 9.10 am Collective Worship Assembly for KS1 and KS2 led by member of SLT.

Tuesday – 9.10 am Early Years Assembly led by member of the Early Years Team.

Tuesday – 10.10 am Singing Assembly for KS1 and KS2 led by teacher or member of a Gosforth Church.

Wednesday – 9.10 am Merit Assembly for KS1 and KS2 led by member of SLT.

Friday – 10.10 am KS1 and KS2 Assembly led by member of SLT.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Planning sheets (in the humanities cupboard) list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. SEAL materials and Jenny Mosley books also contain relevant information for use when planning Collective Worship.

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. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and 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 will be made preceding the act of worship and 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 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.

Date completed: September 2018

Review date: September 2019