



Ashmole Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

At Ashmole Primary School, collective worship is set within the context of 'Assemblies' – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.

Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth.

Aims and Purpose

During collective worship we aim to:

- Provide an all-inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community
- Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly every day. These assemblies normally involve all of the pupils in the school and may be whole school assemblies, separate key stage assemblies or class own assembly with their times varying accordingly.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We value the achievements of the children both in school and out of school and one of our assemblies each week is a merit assembly. All children take part in class assemblies during the year, during which the children can share their work and successes with their parents and the rest of the school.

Assemblies are normally conducted by members of the school staff. Assemblies are planned every term on a thematic basis using the Values Education policy, British Values and Rights and Respect themes. Significant festivals from world faiths may also be the subject of an assembly.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

One of the key aims of collective worship is to offer pupils opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spiritual Development is promoted by:

- the celebration of special achievements
- guided reflection
- consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings
- appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and which contribute to a sense of awe and wonder

Moral Development is promoted by:

- consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
- consideration of relationships
- encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives

Social Development is promoted by:

- coming together as a school/class group
- bringing visitors into school from the community
- sharing values and matters of concern

Cultural Development is promoted by:

- using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
- exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship.

There may be parts of an assembly, for example when a Christian hymn is sung, in which a pupil does not wish to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to withdraw from a part of the assembly by not participating.

A parent may make a request for their child/ren to be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at school.

September 2023

Next review due: September 2024