

Ashton Gate Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Introduction

At Ashton Gate School we have an act of Collective Worship every day. Collective Worship will be broadly Christian based and will be in addition to any secular assemblies.

Each act of Collective Worship will have a moment of reflection—'a thinking moment'.

All pupils will attend unless we have been notified beforehand by parents. Withdrawal for any other reason denies pupils of their entitlement and opportunity for spiritual development.

All staff have a copy of the legal requirements for Collective Worship and a member of staff from each year group will attend every Collective Worship.

Aims

- To provide opportunities for all pupils to participate both actively and passively in daily acts of Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988.
- To bring pupils together, to develop a spirit of community and promote a common ethos and shared values.
- To provide an opportunity for children to explore their own beliefs and the beliefs of others.
- To create an atmosphere where those who wish to worship are able to do so.
- We aim to develop the spiritual side of school life and community and the individuals within it.
- We aim to contribute to pupils personal and spiritual development using appropriate stories.
- We hope to raise levels of achievement by raising self esteem which will contribute to improved behaviour and pupil response.
- We hope to enable our pupils to understand what it means to take a religion seriously and develop a level of respect throughout the school.
- To give pupils an opportunity to participate and respond in all acts of Collective Worship.

The ethos of collective worship

- All children will be aware of the start of Collective Worship as a raised hand signal.
- A phrase such as 'Now we are starting Collective Worship' allows time for the distinctive atmosphere we would like to share during the act, to be created. We also indicate when it is time for quiet reflection and silence for our 'thinking moment'.
- Staff have a selection of thought or prayers to use for various occasions.
- The use of 'Amen' is explained to the children and they are offered the choice to Respond or remain silent.
- Children will be invited to actively listen to a specific piece of music of the week, as they enter and leave collective worship. The music programme is planned one term ahead by the music co-ordinator.
- At present Collective Worship is delivered by all members of the teaching staff.
- Wherever possible links are made to different areas of the curriculum.
- Major religious festivals from other faiths are also celebrated.



Organisation:

Collective Worship grouping takes various forms within the week:

- We regularly have class collective worship—'in-class' and Key Stage collective worship. Occasionally we have a whole school grouping and the assembly is prepared by a teacher beforehand.
- Secular assemblies dealing with administration do not take the place of Collective Worship. On these occasions the act will happen at an alternative time during the day.
- Praise assemblies are held to celebrate the children's work in each key stage, to encourage the values we hope to instil throughout the school. It will also include visitors where possible.
- Singing assemblies are held to experience a shared community response through the emotions, feelings and insights engendered by listening to music and singing.

Moments of reflection:

- In-class groups: after the story with class teacher -'thinking moment'.
- Key Stage singing with leader of assembly is a 'listening moment'.



Planning:

At Ashton Gate Collective Worship is a mixture of:

- Explicit Christian i.e. Stories about Jesus. Stories of Christians and their lives.
- Implicit Christian i.e. spiritual and moral social themes which reflect Christian beliefs
- Other Faiths i.e. broadly spiritual themes addressed from the perspective of other faiths or none.
- Exploration of human, worldwide, global and environmental issues.
- Staff receive a copy of the Collective Worship one term ahead and a copy is kept by the head teacher.

Date: January 2018

Review: January 2021