

Lemington Riverside Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education reform act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian church.

However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and wider community.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To teach children how to worship

Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each assembly, which is normally a whole school assembly.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We expect children to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We aim to create an appropriate atmosphere by using music.

The Head Teacher , other members of staff or local religious leaders usually conduct assemblies.

Each class leads an assembly during the school year.

The whole school visits both the Methodist Church and the Anglican Church to celebrate significant festivals.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build upon topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes and topical themes.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to assemblies when their children are receiving awards and individual classes are leading the assemblies. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and Review

The governors have responsibility for monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship. The Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed in 2013 as part of the school's review timetable.

Date: October 2007

Updated : October 2010

Reviewed: 23.10.13

Reviewed: 30.11.16

To be reviewed October 2019