

# Collective Worship Policy

## Lemington Riverside Primary School



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# Collective Worship Policy

## Philosophy

Worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It can take place in assemblies; both whole school and class based, and can be attended by all children, staff and any visitors in school.

At Lemington Riverside Primary School we recognise that collective worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Using guidance from the locally agreed syllabus established by the local Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), collective worship reflects the religious traditions in Britain, which are, in the main, Christian, while taking into account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Britain.

We promote fundamental British values and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We reflect the religious backgrounds represented in our community in collective worship and actively promote British values, encouraging our pupils to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

## Aims

It is our aim that worship should:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child, establishing a strong school ethos supported by effective relationships throughout our school.
- Encourage respect for other people and promote tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures.
- Support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of our PSHE and LORIC programmes.
- Give expression to reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- To help children to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

- Use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help understand a range of faiths.

### **Legal Status of Collective Worship**

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide children with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for children in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

Acts of Collective Worship at Lemington Riverside Primary take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The Head Teacher and Governors, on advice from the RE Subject Leader, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of children. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image, moment of silences and reflection etc.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

We seek to be an inclusive community; however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head Teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the Head Teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Head Teacher, should he wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The schools council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the schools council.