

Collective Worship Policy

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Method of Communication (e.g Website, Noticeboard, etc) School Website			

Collective Worship at Longman's Hill Primary School takes place daily in accordance with current legislative requirements. A daily act of worship forms part of each assembly, which is either a whole-school assembly, or separate Key Stage assemblies.

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

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. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

In planning the collective worship policy the school has taken into account the following issues and has tried to provide:

- An effective and evolving pattern of themes for collective worship;
- Conceptual coherence and material appropriate to the age and stage of development of the pupils;
- The flexibility to respond to changing circumstances both in and out of school.

The school has included a range of types of worship:-

- Staff led;
- Assemblies led by visitors;
- Pupil involvement;
- Times of celebration;
- Opportunities for reflection and quiet;
- Storytelling;
- The creative and expressive arts;

- The sharing of knowledge, information and achievement;
- Exploration of biblical text and the use of symbolism.

The approach of the school is educational and, where appropriate, curricular, linked with themes that are being studied in school. Our assemblies are of a broadly Christian character although will also address some multi-faith issues from other religions or non-religions.

Aims for Collective Worship

The school endeavours to promote, through an understanding of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development:-

- Wonder in the presence of the marvels of the natural world;
- Delight at being alive in the modern world with all it means and offers;
- Expression of emotions and feelings;
- A sense of fellowship between people;
- Attitudes, behaviour and responsibilities towards others, reflecting the school of tolerance , support and understanding;
- Admiration for the human virtues of decency, honesty, self sacrifice, courage etc;
- Concern at the sight of cruelty, injustice, exploitation etc;
- Appreciation of beauty, truth and love.

Criteria of Collective Worship

The themes are linked with the curriculum and presented in a variety of ways and through a variety of media. They are meaningful and of value. They recognise the stage of readiness for worship of each child. They are educationally acceptable in content and suitable for the children present.

Content and Approach

The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils to include -

- Celebration of the festivals of Christianity;
- Information on major festivals and other faiths;
- Presentation of bible stories;
- Topical materials from local and national news, including awareness days;
- Literature with implicit and explicit religious or moral teaching;
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- Recognition of the talents, achievements, worth and potential of ourselves and others;
- Prayer in different forms – formal, children’s own, silence and meditation.

Our assemblies are planned per term, with weekly themes in accordance with the list above.

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 ask of pupils to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in reflection time. All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs. Under no

circumstances will the pupils be asked to accept beliefs which are contrary to their family background. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or sometimes objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

At Christmas, Easter and Harvest time the school has special celebrations, usually at the local church, to which parents and members of the wider community are invited.