Greenmount Primary School

Policy for

Collective Worship

Chronology:
This policy replaces the one agreed on 11th February 2019.
This policy was discussed at the Pupils and Curriculum Committee on 14th March 2022.
This policy was ratified by the Full Governing Body on 23rd May 2022.
This policy will be reviewed by the Pupils and Curriculum Committee in the Spring term of 2025.

Introduction

Greenmount Primary School is a Community school. Collective worship is therefore an important part of school life as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community.

We recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Our school aims and ethos underpin and are explored through our Collective Worship. Themes relating to developing Fundamental British Values are often explored through Collective Worship. When planning Collective Worship we are conscious of our duty to safeguard children from extremist views (see section on The Prevent Duty in our Child Protection Policy).

Aims

Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to

- worship God;
- reflect on spiritual and moral issues;
- explore their own beliefs;
- encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered;
- celebrate the school community, important occasions and festivals together and to
- develop community cohesion, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

Collective Worship in Practice

The responsibility for co-ordinating acts of collective worship lies with the Head Teacher.

'Worship' must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration to God. However, worship in a school will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.

Traditionally, collective worship consists of a sequence of events woven together to make a coherent whole. It may include a number of activities which are not specifically worship in the strict sense, but which nevertheless contribute to the sense of occasion.

The usual pattern of daily collective worship, depending on circumstances, may include a varying combination of **some** of these elements:-

Prayer

Silence for reflection or prayer

Singing

Readings / stories / video clips / images

Exposition

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. As part of our Collective Worship, staff use inspirational stories from a variety of world religions. We also celebrate festivals from faiths other than Christianity over the course of the year.

Collective Worship Timetable
We plan a variety of acts of collective worship – some whole school, some key stage specific and some class based.
We aim to hold our collective worship in Church at least twice a year.
Collective worship can be led by staff, pupils and visitors.
~~The current timetable can be found on the staffroom noticeboard.~~

Resources for Collective Worship
A variety of resources are held in school which will support the acts of collective worship. These resources are stored in the hall.
Whenever Collective Worship is led by a visitor, the content of the session is always discussed beforehand with the head teacher. This is to ensure that the children will not be exposed to any extremist views (see the school's Child Protection, section on the Prevent Duty).

Special Educational Needs and Collective Worship
To support the Special Educational Needs policies of the school and the LA it is important that attention is given to the content of, and approach to, collective worship. The responsibility for this lies with those who arrange and lead the act of collective worship, liaising with the class teachers and SENCO as appropriate.

Collective Worship and Religious Education
The act of collective worship is not a substitute for class-based religious education, but an opportunity for the whole school or groups to meet together, to share experience and concern, to celebrate festivals and events and consider ideas. In law RE and Collective Worship are separate and distinct (even though there is some obvious overlap).

Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship
Responsibility for the implementation of the school's policy lies with the head teacher. Management, monitoring and evaluation of collective worship in each stage and throughout the school are the responsibilities of the head teacher in consultation with the governing body.

A comprehensive record for each assembly is kept by the head teacher.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship
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.