

Eastwood Community School



Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

This worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from Bradford's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE). The school has consulted community stakeholders representative of all faith groups as part of its production.

Policy Statement

This worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of Eastwood Community School.

Collective Worship takes place daily and is planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

At Eastwood Community School, we recognise that school assemblies are an important time in the life of a school, since it is a time when the whole school, Key Stage or class meets together to share information of concern to all. It is a time when children can develop their awareness of being part of a larger community through the self-discipline and respect for others required in meeting together. It is a particular time amongst others in the school day when moral education can happen, with an awareness of the values that we would all share.

Assemblies in school will contain a great variety of content from a variety of faith, moral and secular standpoints.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.

Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs which are contrary to their family background.

They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.

Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow etc.

Acts of worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a global citizen.

We value the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensure that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated. Evaluation takes place through observation of children's attentiveness and levels of interest shown during the sessions and observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another. Evaluation of the impact of collective worship is reported back to stakeholders periodically.

The legal requirements: the Education Reform Act

Organisation

There is a whole school assembly every week on Mondays led by the Head Teacher. There is a "word of the week" which is planned to incorporate significant themes throughout the year. Key Stage leaders plan and deliver key stage assemblies that deal with topical issues connected with school, the local and wider community, following on from the Monday assembly. There are weekly Key Stage assemblies which celebrate children's successes and achievement both within school and in the wider community. Class teachers plan their own class assembly each week often following on from the word of the week.

Eastwood has applied, and been granted, SACRE determination to not deliver a broadly Christian worship as the majority of our population follow the Muslim faith. Our Faith worship assemblies cover stories and knowledge from all 6 major world faiths and a period of reflection to ensure pupils of all faiths are included in the worship.

From time to time, visitors from a variety of faith backgrounds will be invited to lead multifaith worship with pupils.

It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship but where this is the case, parents may withdraw their children on the grounds of conscience. Should they wish to do so an appropriate provision will be made in these instances, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Please contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns.

The content of Collective Worship

The content of Collective Worship is designed to enhance the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Citizenship development of pupils, to provide opportunities for reflection, praise and to promote recognition of each pupil's worth and potential.

In assembly we need to ensure:

- Suitable entry music
- A recognised start and end is established to set the time for worship apart from other school activities
- A period of reflection and discussion

All these contribute towards making collective worship a different and special occasion for the children.

Assemblies might include:

- Stories
- Poems

- Songs
- Music
- Readings
- Silence – for reflection, thought, silent prayer
- Drama
- Film, photographs, power point presentations
- Range of visitors.

Eastwood Community School assemblies are characterised by:

- Active involvement and participation of as many pupils as is appropriate
- Content as interesting, reflective and current as is possible, related to local, national or global events / issues of concern or interest
- An awareness of the possibilities of worship
- An acceptance of the possibility of God
- A desire to present things in depth
- Attitudes of delight, wonder, openness to sorrow, joy, tranquillity and disturbance
- An attitude of standing alongside, looking together and sharing something
- Involvement of pupils and adults in a shared experience of the school acting as a community
- Enhancing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Document Control:

Adopted and ratified by Governors

April 2021

Due for review

April 2023