



BIRCH COPSE PRIMARY SCHOOL
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Version

Version: 1.2

Status

Statutory

Introduction

This document is a statement of the school's intentions with regard to the Act of Collective Worship. It was compiled by the Headteacher and staff and approved by the governors. The date of the latest review is indicated at the end of the policy statement.

This policy satisfies the requirements of the Education Act 1997 and DfEE Circular 1/94 (Religious Education and Collective Worship).

Aims

Collective Worship in school should provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God; consider 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; and develop community spirit; promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes. (Ref. DfEE Circular 1/94)

The act of worship should be appropriate for the pupils, and should take account of the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Meaning of collective worship:

Worship in school should encourage a sense of awe and wonder, and foster a respect for the world and its peoples. It must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities, and should be concerned with reverence, and the value of the occasion.

Worship in school will be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common (i.e. collective worship rather than corporate worship).

Collective worship is different from Assembly, although they may take place as part of the same gathering. Collective worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

Character of collective worship

Collective worship is to be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" (Education Act 1997). It should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination, nor is it necessary for it to contain only Christian material.

Collective worship should

- respect pupil and staff integrity
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- explore experiences which are part of living e.g. of community and belonging; of success and failure; of joy and grief.

Delivery of the Act of Collective Worship

The School will promote the aims, meaning and character of collective worship outlined above through:

- a) silence, reflection or prayer
- b) songs and music
- c) readings, poetry, stories (religious and moral)
- d) drama and dance
- e) use of artefacts: visual and audio-visual aids
- f) creating a suitable atmosphere eg. a sense of order on entering and leaving; use of flowers, candles or other similar focus
- g) pupil participation

Organisation

- a) collective worship will take place on a regular daily basis as currently timetabled
- b) acts of worship can be whole school, department or class-based; small, medium and large gatherings are equally valuable
- c) those who lead should do so in ways that allow everyone present to take part with integrity; the leader's role need not always create a big solemn occasion, but can frequently support an intimate, creative event which invites personal encouragement and response. Invitations to visiting speakers from outside the school, and opportunities for classes to lead the acts of collective worship should be encouraged.

Exercise of Right of Withdrawal

The right to withdraw from collective worship should be freely exercisable, and the school will give effect to any such request. The Headteacher will find it helpful to establish with the person(s) concerned:

- a) the religious issues which are the cause of objection
- b) the practical implications of withdrawal

Responsible officer

Senior Leadership team

Date of last review: Nov 2017

Dates of amendments: 7th June 2010

Date of next review: Nov 2020