



KING'S OAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

October 2021

Policy prepared/reviewed by: Ian Hutchings

Policy reviewed and approved by: Governing Body

Date of approval: October 2021

Date of next review: 2024

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Mission Statement

Our school is at the heart of our community. We are proud of our vibrant, caring and welcoming environment in which children love to learn, staff love to teach and where the support of our families and wider community is integral to success.

We believe in educating the 'whole child', promoting positive relationships and emotional wellbeing. Alongside academic achievement we also ensure that all of our pupils learn the skills and build the confidence, self-assurance and motivation to be able to develop as independent, resourceful learners who will collaborate with others to go on learning, throughout their education and life. We place high importance on PSICHE (Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education) so that each child builds on the emotional, social and personal skills needed to maximise learning opportunities and to become rounded and skilled citizens.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when our whole school, or groups within our school, meet together in order to consider and reflect upon common concerns, issues and interests and worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences. It provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences. It provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The Collective Worship Policy at King's Oak Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. It is also consistent with the philosophy and aims of our school.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship, we make a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school community.

For our School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to our ethos and is a time when our school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievements and special times
- explore, together, the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For our Pupils:

Collective Worship also contributes to the development of each pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities for pupils to:

- worship and/or reflect
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- develop a sense of belonging
- reflect on what it means to be human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of our Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, Collective Worship will, at times, link to aspects of our curriculum. Opportunities to reflect on our experiences and behaviour in class to consider subject matter from different perspectives will enhance the learning experiences of pupils.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy, which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, it will: address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources, and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' at their own level.

The Leadership and Management of Collective Worship

The Headteacher, PSHE Co-ordinator and RE Subject Leaders will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship and determine the themes to be followed and the programme of class assemblies and visitors representing faith groups in the community. Members of school staff and occasional visitors may be involved in leading acts of worship during the school year.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classrooms. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Whole school assemblies take place in the hall, whereas year group assemblies take place in classrooms. Class assemblies are on Thursdays and parents/carers are invited to these.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Planning takes into account special occasions and events but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Planning and monitoring will ensure that there is continuity and progression and will enable the evaluation of acts of Collective Worship/reflection to take place.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of collective worship and reflection. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship/reflection.

A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources that are appropriate to the content, taking into account the age, aptitude and background of the pupils. The content and process will be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity will be given to express this response through reflection.

Visitors are welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and leaders from faiths within our community increase pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths. This is not treated as a chance for visitors to preach their faith, but to raise awareness of it and expose children to differing viewpoints. As such, reference to religions is objective (i.e. Hindus believe that...). Persons who are asked to visit the school for an assembly will have been in prior contact with the RE subject lead in order to ensure that the content they wish to present is appropriate.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship, they will be of a positive nature and at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made (e.g. a change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc.).

Withdrawal

If a parent/carer objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship, they may request that their child is withdrawn, but parents/carers are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. A member of school staff will supervise any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship during that time.