



The Federation of Cherry Oak and Victoria Specialist Arts College

Collective Worship Policy

Statement:

Cherry Oak and Victoria Schools will comply with the relevant legislation relating to collective worship in schools. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout both schools

Legal status of collective worship:

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an Act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, it may take the form of a whole school act of worship, or for students in different age groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

Rights of withdrawal:

At both schools we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. Both schools expect that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Executive Head Teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

There would be suitable supervision for students withdrawn from the Acts of Collective Worship. However no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, classroom assistants, and others including the Head Teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective worship, but the Head Teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship for both schools.

Acts of Collective Worship at both schools will take into account the students ages, aptitudes, ethnicity and family background.

Aims:

It is the aim of both schools that worship should:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.

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- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practice the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of external concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school
- Celebrate local, national and international occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Enable members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- Provide members of the school community to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection
- To help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

Role and Responsibilities:

The Head teacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

Practice and Procedures:

An Act of Collective Worship will take place every day. The time at which this takes place and the form of the Collective Worship (whole school, team or class groupings) may vary from day to day.

The majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

The Act of Collective Worship will be non-denominational.

Every child will take part in the Act of Collective Worship unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians.

Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families.

Collective worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review:

The Head teacher will keep a record of all Acts of Collective Worship themes.

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The school will review this policy accordingly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Organisation:

Victoria and Cherry Oak School have a daily Collective Worship time in each classroom. Generally this will be a time of quiet reflection at the end of the day. This will last between 10 and 15 minutes.

Theme and Focus:

The two schools follow a programme of six themes, one for each half term. These include: Celebration, Relationships, Communication, Specialness, Community and Values. In each theme there will be a different focus and where appropriate links to significant festivals which will be identified e.g., Easter, Christmas, Eid, Diwali, Remembrance Day. The leader of each gathering for collective worship will discuss with staff and children the 'Focus for the Week'. The focus is discussed throughout the week to ensure pupils understand the theme and can reflect upon it during assembly time or their own personal time.

All the themes and focuses are linked to the 'Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, 2007' and the '24 Dispositions'.

Assemblies:

For each assembly there is a focus planned for each week and these promote British Values throughout the year e.g. St Georges Day or Mothering Sunday. Appropriate reference is also made to items in the news that could affect the pupils, e.g., Children in Need, Red Nose Day etc.

Class Assemblies

Every class (Early Years to Year 6) will prepare, rehearse and perform a class assembly to share with family and friends.

Date accepted by Governors

05/10/16.

Date of Implementation

Reviewed

September 2015

Date for Review

September 2018

