



Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Beardall Fields Primary and Nursery School follows the guidance of: Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship. There has been no significant change in the law about collective worship since the Education Reform Act of 1988 or the Education Act of 1996.

'In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. (ERA 1988, Education Act 1996). ERA (1988) and Education Act (1996) state that acts of worship may contain certain elements drawn from a number of different faiths, but that within each term, the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a Christian character.

At Beardall Fields Primary and Nursery School our collective worship is broadly Christian but is distinct from corporate worship within a faith group. However, it is fundamental that collective Worship be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the pupils at the school. Therefore, 'an act of worship which is "broadly Christian" need not contain Christian material only' (DFE 34)

Many beliefs that are broadly Christian are inclusive to other major world faiths. Examples are God, love, peace, good and evil, greed, poverty, charity, pollution, tolerance, co-operation, prejudice and morality. If a broad and flexible approach is used, collective worship will not affect the integrity of anyone taking part at our school but may develop the spiritual awareness of every individual.

The Purpose of Collective worship

Collective worship is for all pupils, and it usually forms a small part of an assembly or its entirety. Collective worship has the potential to unite the whole school and therefore develop a sense of community. Collective worship is a part of our contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every single person in the school community. During collective worship we are working towards creating experiences, which recognise the integrity and dignity of all members of the school community, both those who adopt a religious life-stance and those who do not. These experiences should be educational and stimulate the possibility of a person's inward reflection, which can lead them to the development of an outward, and open lifestyle in which they live harmoniously with others.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To provide opportunity for an experience of worship
- To reflect on the values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding

Objectives of Collective Worship

- Collective worship in school should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to:
- Worship
- Reflect on moral issues
- Explore beliefs
- Experience a sense of wonder
- Experience common prayer
- Have a time for reflection and self-awareness
- Have time to express their own feelings
- Develop a recognition of a Supreme Being and an awareness of religion
- Build a sense of community
- Make links with the wider community
- Celebrate joys and sorrows

- Develop an appreciation of other faiths
- Develop collegiate responsibility
- Have opportunities to raise moral issues
- Experience and develop an awareness of different religions and cultures
- Value and celebrate minority cultures
- Develop knowledge of culture

At Beardall Fields Primary and Nursery School all assemblies/collective worship are based on the Principles that they should be:

- Inclusive
- Educational
- Spiritual and contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. They include worship and/or Christian worship and are seen as special times where children can feel secure and relaxed and share with others to foster a feeling of community.
- A time for reflection
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Planning Themes can be linked to:

- Religious events
- Special events
- Special events in the life of the school
- British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs
- Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning and are linked to the Calendar of Religious Festivals for the year

In school there is much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope and request and we will place these as high priorities.

The themes enable children to reflect on matters of importance and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music making, hymns, drama, role play, the visual arts, silent thought, prayer and discussion.

The Law

Parents have the right to withdraw their Child from acts of worship, Staff equally have the right to withdraw from collective worship. Arrangements would be made for children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

All children would be provided with appropriate class work and supervised on a rota basis.

The Education Reform Act does not define collective worship. At Beardall Fields Primary School we focus on someone or something promoting spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of all children.

Conclusion

At Beardall Fields Primary and Nursery School our collective worship offers opportunity to appreciate, learn and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate achievements and worthwhile or positive behaviour. It builds up our common life. We offer children the opportunity to consider the beliefs and values of their own lives and to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a community.

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