



Collective Worship Policy

At Laurel Avenue Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to promote Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and British Values. Collective Worship is set within the context of 'Assemblies' – which may include other features besides those required of Collective Worship. Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth. Whilst recognising our statutory duty, Laurel Avenue Community Primary is a multi-faith school and our assemblies reflect this. Our prayers and forms of worship are inclusive and broadly non-denominational.

The collective worship policy pays due regards to legal requirements and is consistent with the guidelines offered by the SACRE of Durham Education Authority. This collective worship policy reflects the spirit of Laurel Avenue Community Primary School and is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship is the time set aside from other aspects of school life, when pupils are given the opportunity to learn and reflect on a variety of issues which may, if pupils wish to do so, evoke a worshipful response.

Aims

It is our aim at Laurel Avenue Primary School that Collective Worship should:

- ◆ *contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child*
- ◆ *support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils*
- ◆ *prepare our pupils to participate in and contribute to modern Britain*
- ◆ *give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community*
- ◆ *allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings*
- ◆ *celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals*
- ◆ *foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others*
- ◆ *provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation*

- ◆ *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*

It is also our aim to promote a common ethos and shared values.

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

At Laurel Avenue Community Primary School we hold three whole school assemblies per week. Two are delivered by Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or a member of the teaching staff. Every Friday, pupils' achievements are celebrated during Star Assembly. In addition to these whole school assemblies, twice a week each class holds an individual assembly linked to our Curriculum Drivers.

Acts of collective worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be reduced or extended when it is appropriate.

The responsibility for arranging Collective Worship in our school rests with the Headteacher who after consultation with the Governing Body is responsible for co-ordinating Collective Worship in school. Assembly themes are uploaded to the school website each term.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that:

- ◆ *Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount*
- ◆ *Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness*

Acts of Collective Worship at Laurel Avenue Primary School take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The Contribution of the Curriculum to Collective Worship

Collective worship can contribute to other areas of the curriculum, enriching classwork, providing different perspectives, promoting thought and understanding and encouraging the quest for further study

We believe that it is sound educational practice to draw on and from all areas of the curriculum (not just R.E.) and the outside world in order to provide valuable experiences in collective worship.

The Relationship between Collective Worship and PSHE

There are some excellent topics in the Jigsaw materials which will provide scope for planning effective collective worship. The aim of Laurel Avenue Community Primary School will be to dovetail the requirements of both with the specific needs of the school, in the school's long term planning for collective worship.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Laurel Avenue Primary School we seek to be an inclusive school, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher.

All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of Collective Worship, but the Headteacher, should she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for acts of Collective Worship.

Regular visits are made to the school by Reverend Alan Bartlett from St Giles Church and by Reverend Wynd from the Baptist Church to carry out whole school assemblies.

Entitlement

We believe that collective Worship is an important part of every child's development. It is totally inclusive. All ages and abilities are provided for.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of Collective Worship in the school. The school will review this policy every three years and report annually to the Governing Body on its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Signed: G Davison

Headteacher

Date: June 2015

Signed: C Linfoot

Chair of Community and SMSC Committee

Date: June 2015

Review: June 2018