



Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Within the Village Schools Partnership we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our schools. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

Aims

- The central aims of Collective Worship within the Partnership are to:
- provide our children with daily opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- help children develop understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

The Legal Position

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief." At both of our schools we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes include the core values of the schools- Kindness, Courage, Forgiveness, Respect, Honesty, as well as others and the value of all human life. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We also utilise themes related to our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) work. We recognise that in our Partnership we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in or collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at our schools is an inclusive activity. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Heads of Learning in each school.

Context of Collective worship

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary in size and are led by members of staff as well as visitors from the local church community and representatives from other faiths.

Assemblies celebrate achievement and are based around the PSHE whole school themes that we often cover in the classroom. Main festivals, events, current affairs, religions, cultures and famous peoples' lives are also included as appropriate to the theme and the time of year. Families may also be invited to the local church to join us for special events such as Harvest Festival or Christmas carols.

Visitors also play a part in the life of our school and contribute to acts of worship.

A range of resources is used to enhance children's learning and reflection. These include; stories, music and multimedia presentations all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

Conclusion

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate children's talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.