



Collective Worship & Celebration Policy

Introduction

At Appledore School we believe that Collective Worship plays an important role in the life a school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for reflection.

Aims

The central aims of Collective Worship within the School are to:

- provide our children with opportunities for 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 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. Acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief." Key themes include our PSHE *Values* of being responsible, positive, healthy, inclusive and inspirational and friendship as well as others and the value of all human life.

We recognise that in our School we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Parents 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 school.

Context of Collective worship

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

Assemblies celebrate achievement and are based around the PSHE whole school Value. 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 are invited to the local church and school hall to join us for special events such Harvest and Christmas. 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.