

WELLESLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR THE ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

This document is a statement of the rationale, purposes and organisation for the delivery of Acts of Collective Worship at Wellesley Primary School.

RATIONALE

Society is composed of individuals and groups of people with shared and differing values, opinions and beliefs. For pupils to develop spiritually and morally they need to explore these areas, welcome differences and be given the opportunity to make their own decisions from a sound knowledge base.

PURPOSES

To give each pupil the opportunity to develop a sense of identity and value.

To give each pupil the opportunity to reflect upon and share what is important and meaningful to themselves and others.

To contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of the child.

To allow pupils to develop an understanding, appreciation and respect for other people, their needs, views and beliefs.

Explore the possibility of a higher meaning and purpose in life, either within themselves or from a divine being.

To give the opportunity to reflect upon shared moral values and agree on acceptable codes of behaviour.

To recognise and praise the good nature, actions and achievements of people (individual pupils, groups of pupils, the school and famous people, past and present).

To develop an appreciation of and respect for their environment and a sense of responsibility to care for it.

BROAD GUIDELINES

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to arrange Acts of Collective Worship, in consultation with the Governors.

The Education Reform Act of 1988 requires all pupils to attend a daily Act of Collective Worship, unless withdrawn by parental request.

Any teacher, including the Headteacher, has the right to withdraw from Acts of Collective Worship. However the contents and delivery of all acts should ensure that there is no need for this right to be exercised.

In accordance with legal requirements, the majority of acts of worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature and will reflect the broad traditions of Christian beliefs.

TEACHING STYLE AND ORGANISATION

Acts of Collective Worship may be delivered to the whole school, Key Stages or individual classes. They will be held in the hall or classrooms as appropriate.

Acts of Collective Worship may be held at any time of the day.

The whole school Acts will be led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and on occasions other members of the teaching staff. Pupils will also lead Acts of worship through House and Class led assemblies with teacher supervision.

Efforts will be made to emphasise the occasion and make the environment conducive to worship eg. music may be played at the beginning and the end.

Special services may be held to mark important occasions in the year, example Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christmas. Parents, carers and relations will be invited to these.

Acts of Collective Worship should provide quality learning experiences.

Acts of Collective Worship will recognise the wide variety of backgrounds the pupils come from and be relevant to all pupils, including those with different or no beliefs.

There will be a variety of formats to suit the age and needs of the pupils and the teaching purpose including stories, drama, art, music, videos and poems.

Most Acts of Collective Worship will include:-

- A time of adult or pupil input eg. story or talk.
- A time for listening and thinking about the message.
- A time for active involvement, expressing and sharing views.
- A time for silent reflection.

Pupils will be invited to actively participate in the worship and not be coerced.

PLANNING

One off Acts of Collective Worship have a value but the majority of acts will be linked to other Acts of Collective Worship through a shared theme. To provide continuity and progression links also need to be made with previous and subsequent Acts of Collective Worship.

Links should be developed with other curricular areas. Particularly close links exist with PSHE, History, Geography and Science. Many of the elements will naturally complement work done in RE.

LINKS WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Visitors are invited into school to lead Acts of Collective worship. Several local groups attend on a regular basis eg the Vicar of St Nicholas Church and Yate Assembly Team. Other people are invited into school to speak on a particular theme. All visitors will be expected to reflect the school's aims and values, follow the school's policy and wherever possible to support ongoing themes.

The school traditionally uses Acts of Collective worship to support a range of causes such as the selling of poppies for Remembrance Day and sending Christmas boxes to children in Romania. Additional requests by charities to visit the school to explain their work and fund raising appeals will be considered and included at the discretion of the Headteacher.

DISPLAY

Displays should stimulate, celebrate and reflect the work covered in Acts of Collective worship.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

All pupils attend a daily Act of Collective Worship (unless withdrawn by parents).

Pupils able to discuss stories and themes heard in Collective Worship.

Acts of Worship will be clearly timetabled on teacher's planning sheets, and separated from other Curriculum areas and school activities, including assemblies.

The Collective Worship file will show broad and balanced acts relevant to the pupils needs and backgrounds. The majority of acts of worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature and will reflect the broad traditions of Christian beliefs.

All visitors will follow the school's policy and reflect the school's aims and values when planning to participate in the school's acts of collective worship. Visitors will have staff members present during the assemblies they lead.

The Headteacher will have responsibility for monitoring the quality of Acts of Collective Worship in school.

CONCLUSION

An effective Collective Worship allows pupils to strengthen their own values and beliefs, place them within a structured framework and learn a responsible way of considering and respecting the values and beliefs of others.