Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: 17.06.24

Next Review: Term 6 2027

Fairfields School

Approved by Governors

Fairfields School
Collective Worship Policy

Context

At Fairfields we strive to work in partnership with parents and carers to facilitate the development of each pupil.

By doing this we endeavour to achieve our beliefs which are:

- Inclusion is at the heart of all we do.
- Children learn best when teaching is memorable, purposeful and meaningful.
- All children can achieve.
- How children learn is as important as what children learn.
- Children learn when they are happy and secure.

Principles

At Fairfields School all assemblies / acts of collective worship are based on the principles that they should be:- inclusive, educational and spiritual.

Inclusive – They should:-

- be pupil-centred, related to pupils' own experience and relevant to pupils' concerns,
- acknowledge diversity,
- involve pupils as active participants,
- meet the needs of the pupils,
- foster a sense of community.

Educational – They should:-

- be learning experiences,
- be well-planned,
- relate to other curriculum activities,
- provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides,
- celebrate educational achievements,
- be consistent with the aims and values of the school.

Spiritual – They should:-

- provide a time to be still and reflect,
- be a special time – conducive to worship,
- enable children to feel calm, relaxed and secure,
- include a variety of words, symbols, music and images,
- provide an opportunity for children to participate in collective worship.

The aims of Collective Worship at Fairfields School

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

- ✓ awe and wonder,
- ✓ interdependence with the natural world,
- ✓ pattern, sequence and order,
- ✓ self-worth and value of others,

➢ To develop an awareness that:-

- ✓ life involves choices of belief, attitude, behaviour and relationships,
- ✓ there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life.

The approach to Collective Worship at Fairfields School

The acts of collective worship are planned to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on, and respond to, things which we, as a school community, believe are important. These experiences include:

- the telling of appropriate stories (Biblical, moral, multi-cultural)
- drama
- dance
- poetry
- music

Planning

Collective Worship is first and foremost for the educational and spiritual benefit of pupils. It is a shared activity which allows a variety of responses. It is an inclusive activity which builds links with the broad dimensions of the curriculum.

At Fairfields collective worship is planned:-

1 Around termly themes, appropriate to pupils' aptitude and ability
2 Around major festivals
3 In response to local, national, international news and issues.

A calendar of religious and cultural festivals provides the basis for the yearly cycle of Assemblies.

The Organisation of Collective Worship at Fairfields School

There is an act of collective worship every day following the pattern shown below:
Daily (except for one day a week): class based assemblies known as Circle Time
Once a week: department assemblies
End of each term: Department or wider school assemblies, on a Friday in the hall, organized at different times during the day. Parents are usually invited to these events.

The creation of atmosphere is assisted by appropriate music, visual foci and symbols. The children are encouraged to use this time for reflection and as such are encouraged to be calm and quiet.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right and asked to contact the headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal is recommended in Circular 1/94. Staff also have the right to withdraw.

Equal Opportunities

We are firmly committed to the principles of equal opportunities. We believe that all pupils are entitled to learning experiences, which will enable them to achieve their potential and enrich their lives. We place great value on diversity and treat every member of the school as an individual.

Responsibilities

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy on a three year cycle assessing its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Also refer to the following policies:

- Teaching and Learning
- Curriculum
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Assessment
- Understanding the world around us.
- SMSC