

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils.

At Sandhill we hold a daily act of collective worship which is mainly of a broadly Christian character reflecting the traditions of Christian beliefs but is non-denominational and incorporates a period of reflection.

Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship should they wish to do so. Alternative arrangements will then be made for these children.

Our daily act of worship follows one of the following patterns:

- Whole school assembly led by the Head or Deputy Head
- Visiting clergy/ outside speakers
- Junior/Infant assemblies led by class teachers
- Class based worship under the supervision and guidance of each class teacher
- Special assemblies - Hymn Practice, Awards Assemblies etc.

Music is used as a positive contribution to our collective worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

- Foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to celebrate shared values of the school and community.
- Foster a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the world.
- Allow reflection on the fundamental questions of life and focus attention away from the concerns of the moment to those things that are of eternal concern to people.
- Provide an opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and sharing of emotions such as love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear, reverence, forgiveness etc
- Foster a concern for the needs of other people.
- Provide a time for sharing successes and failures in personal, school and community life
- Provide an experience for being part of a caring community.
- Foster new insights about life and empathy for others.

Spiritual Development

For worship to contribute to the spiritual development of Sandhill pupils we aim to:

- Celebrate all that is good and wonderful about life especially our school, our local community and our natural surroundings.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them.
- Ensure, where possible, that the experiences provided are relevant to age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Allow time for silent reflection and exploration of personal ideas.
- Illustrate forms of worship others have found helpful in their spiritual development e.g. silent contemplation, dancing, singing.
- Provide an environment that is conducive to worship and adequately resourced (literature, visual aids, music, artefacts and guest speakers).

To invite a response from the children which is appropriate to the occasion

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

The aims of our Collective Worship Policy are reflected in our Religious Education Policy.

Further guidance is available from:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/subjects/re/prov

www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/c/collectiveworshippolicy