

WHEATLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Collective Worship Policy

Written: November 2016

Reviewed: September 2024

Wheatlands Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and Purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- to teach children about Fundamental British Values and how it impacts on lives both nationally and globally
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs
- to encourage participation and response
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- to teach children about worship.

2 Collective Worship

2.1 At Wheatlands Primary School we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to religious beliefs. Collective worship involves all members of the school community, as appropriate, coming together and participating in an assembly. We invite everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 We take guidance from the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’.

2.3 We base all of our collective worship assemblies on Fundamental British Values and their themes:

- mutual respect
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- rule of law
- individual liberty
- democracy

Through the teaching of these themes we consider religious events in all faiths with Christianity being the main focus throughout the school year. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.4 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold an act of collective worship assembly in Wheatlands every day. This is made up in a variety of ways.

On Mondays and Thursdays the children gather in their class or year group to consider our shared values, a specific school initiative or consider special days or significant dates.

On Tuesdays the children gather in their class or year group to celebrate reading achievement and to consider various authors and their work.

On Wednesdays the children gather together for hymn practice, a time when children can join in with worship songs in a respectful or reverent manner.

On Fridays we have our Good Work Celebration assembly to celebrate the children's achievements, attitude and attainment both in and out of school. During this collective worship, we focus on the theme for the week with a Star of the Week from each class. We also recognise teamwork via our House Points system; reward writing and class attendance and share achievements and commitment in other areas such as sports and music with the whole school community.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in each assembly. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and at times objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 The Head Teacher and other members of staff conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy conduct them instead.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of both the Christian and other world faiths and we often reflect major festivals and events.

3.5 Our Good Work celebrations particularly reflect the achievements and learning of the children. This offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. It plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. We celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.6 Special shows are prepared throughout the year. This is usually linked to a Christian festival e.g. Harvest, Easter or Christmas. There is always a worship element to this event when hymns are sung and prayers are read out. Parents/ carers are invited and encouraged to attend these special services as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4 Right of Withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and Review

5.1 The subject leader reviews this policy on an annual basis.