



Chalk Ridge Primary School

Policy and Guidelines for Collective Worship

Agreed by governors: November 2016

Reviewed by Curriculum and Standards Committee: November 2016, September 2019 and September 2021

Review: September 2024

Purpose

The daily act of worship at Chalk Ridge Primary School follows the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. The purpose of this act of worship is to make it a special time of togetherness for reflection, for response and for developing a sense of reverence which is separate from the ordinary school activities.

Aims

- To provide opportunities for the whole school community to come together
- To develop a sense of community, of unity and of belonging
- To explore, to share beliefs and to appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- To consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs in the pupils' own lives
- To promote spiritual and moral development within the framework of the law
- To reflect upon common values, to celebrate the various achievements of members of the community and to recollect
- To respond through silent thoughts or active involvement
- To recognise, to interpret and to put into practice the values of the school
- To think about the needs of others
- To encourage pupils to be open, honest, caring and thoughtful
- To offer opportunities for moral and spiritual development
- To come together to enhance the ethos of the school

The daily collective worship will take place at any time during the day and will be in a variety of groupings over the week.

The law requires that daily Acts of Worship are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. They must have regard of the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship. Parental request for withdrawal must be in the form of a letter and discussion with the Headteacher.

The whole school Acts of Worship are led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and the Leadership Team. Staff also deliver 'Key Stage' group assemblies during the week, these may sometimes involve participation by the children. Class assemblies are led by teachers and will involve participation from children. Friday assemblies for some weeks are Presentation Assemblies. Parents are invited to hear and see what their children have been learning.

During Acts of Worship the following may be used:-

Song
Music
Poetry
Drama
Art
Story
Artefacts
Visitors

The Character of Collective Worship

As stated in the policy statement and in line with Hampshire's guidelines, Collective Acts of Worship provide opportunities to **reflect, respond** and **revere**.

There should be a time which is respected by all present and enables the pupils and staff to **reflect** on a particular issue.

Worship demands a level of involvement and opportunities should be given for pupils and staff to **respond** in some way. Responses may be expressed through silent thoughts or by movement or dance.

It is towards a sense of **reverence**, awe and wonder that Acts of Worship should aim. It is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of worthiness of certain realities and values, held to be of central importance to the community who Worship.

Organisation

The daily Collective Worship can take place at any time during the day and can be in whatever grouping the school wishes.

Assemblies during the week are in groups including:-

- Whole school/key stage on Monday led by the Headteacher.
- Class assembly on a Tuesday led by the class teacher
- Key Stage assembly on a Wednesday
- Key Stage group assemblies/House Assemblies/whole school take place on Thursday and are led by members of those teams.
- On a Friday a Celebration assembly takes place where parents are invited to see their child presented with a certificate for following the school values.

For specific times refer to the school's timetable.

The Delivery of Classroom / Key Stage Collective Worship

A variety of groupings allows for a variety of styles and atmosphere. Collective Worship with the whole school may have more formality and a focus on an affirmation of the school as a community. Classroom Collective Worship provides a more relaxed and intimate environment.

When planning Classroom Collective Worship, consider:-

- How the classroom will be arranged to mark the 'special' nature of the occasion

e.g. circle of chairs, on the carpet

- How the 'special' time will be marked

e.g. lighting a candle, ringing a bell

- How to create an opportunity for reflection and response

e.g. passing round an object, playing music, reading a poem

The Value of Classroom Collective Worship

- Children are more likely to offer their deeper personal and private thoughts and feelings in a secure and supportive atmosphere
- Meaningful and direct links can be forged to the children's work in the curriculum
- Teachers, who might feel insecure leading a whole school assembly, can have the opportunity to develop their skills in a more secure context
- The more intimate setting of the classroom offers greater opportunities for the spiritual development of children

We can check that this is working by:

- Observing in assemblies
- Staff meeting discussion to review impact of collective worship
- Governor visits to school assemblies