



Grove School

# **Collective Worship and Assemblies**

October 2020

Mission statement:

**“Enjoy, learn, achieve”**

Dawson Road  
Handsworth  
Birmingham, B21 9HB

Tel: 0121 464 4669  
Fax: 0121 464 0508

E-mail: [enquiry@grove.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@grove.bham.sch.uk)

**Grove school**

**Policy for Collective Worship and Assemblies**

Contents:

- A Aims
- B The 1988 Education Reform Act
- C The Right of Withdrawal
- D The Organisation of Collective Worship
- E Themes for Collective Worship
- F Resources
- G Festivals

## Policy for Collective Worship

The children at Grove School reflect the diverse range of religious and cultural backgrounds in the local community.

The aims of a collective worship policy should reflect this.

### A Aims

- collective worship should respect the integrity of pupils, teachers, other adults and faiths;
- the approach of the leader of collective worship should encourage a variety of intellectual and emotional responses from pupils on each occasion;
- collective worship should be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family (including faith) background of those children attending;
- acts of worship should be relevant to the needs and interests of the children. They should draw on materials, beliefs, morals and principles which reflect the religious and non-religious beliefs of the community;
- collective worship should assist in the development of pupils spiritually, morally, culturally and intellectually;
- assemblies and collective worship should be carefully prepared and information imparted should be accurate. Superficially and tokenism are to be avoided;
- artefacts or a focal point help children to participate and full use should be made of materials which will add to the quality of collective worship;
- care should be taken to ensure that at no time are the beliefs or principles of any participant compromised.

## B Collective worship and the law, DFE Collective Worship Circular 1/94

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. This must broadly Christian in nature.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship and sixth-formers can decide for themselves whether or not to attend, without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

## C The Right of Withdrawal

All parents have the right to withdraw their child from the whole or part of collective worship. Parents will need to apply for withdrawal in writing and arrange to meet the Head Teacher to discuss the request.

Teachers also have the right to be excused from collective worship. They should, under their contracts, attend assemblies and not to be present in those parts when collective worship is taking place.

## D The Organisation of Collective Worship

At Grove School assemblies and collective worship are mainly organised in double year groups and/or year groups.

The Assistant Head Teacher for each double year group is responsible for organising the assembly rota for each term

A weekly assembly is led by the head teacher or DHT/AHT.

There is an assembly on a Friday led by a teacher in the double year group.

Class collective worship takes place in classrooms on three days a week. This is an ideal opportunity to develop understanding of the rights from the UN Convention of Rights ( UNICEF Rights Respecting Awards for Schools) and build on the ideas shared in the weekly assembly led by the DHT/HT.

### **The organisation of Collective Worship during the Covid period.**

A weekly assembly will be led by the head teacher or DHT/AHT via teams. Children will be able to participate in the assembly by giving answers in the chat written by the class teacher and through unmuting the microphones. A daily act of collective worship will also take place in individual classes led by the class teacher, who will follow up from the themes introduced the previous week as well as covering the current theme of the week.

Each assembly will start off with children being given the opportunity to listen to a piece of music from the composer of the month. This will be followed by introducing a word of the week, where the children can extend their vocabulary. After this, the children will be introduced to the main part of the assembly, where activities will cover one of the themes of the week. To conclude, children are given a moment to reflect on what they have learnt from the assembly.

### **E Themes for Collective Worship**

Music and thinking time are used in collective worship to aid reflection and create an ethos of calm and reflection. In this way collective worship is denoted as a separate and important time.

Each week has a theme, which is displayed on a 'Theme of the Week' board in each hall. Themes are decided by the senior leadership team. The themes support the aims of collective worship, uphold the values of the school and community and British Values and seek to enhance the pupils development in spiritual, moral and personal growth.

These are contexts for collective worship on which themes can be based:

- examining an aspect of belief
- learning about an aspect of worship
- acknowledging celebration, anniversaries, festivals and fasts
- stories - religious and moral
- learning from the experience of others
- reflecting on an issue or the world from a particular perspective
- reflecting on meaning and purpose of life
- development of the human spirit
- exploration of tragedy or humour
- celebrating learning and achievement
- responding to challenges

Themes are published on the termly diary.

Some themes occur on a bi-yearly basis, others on an annual basis (festivals, seasons) and some on a termly basis (achievement, bullying). Class assemblies do not necessarily need to follow the weekly themes.

## F Resources

Resources are stored in the PPA room. Staff should ensure resources are returned to allow equal access for all.

During the Covid period, all resources will be made available to class teachers online, using the following link. [www.servicesforeducation.co.uk/collective-worship/](http://www.servicesforeducation.co.uk/collective-worship/)

## **G Festivals**

During the academic year the school comes together to celebrate 4 Festivals (Christmas, Eid Ul Fitr, Diwali and Vaisaki). A year group or class has the responsibility for co-ordinating the festival assembly. Teachers must ensure that any information is accurate and presented in a sensitive manner. Staff, parents and outside agencies are often willing to assist in festival assemblies. A display of artefacts, posts, books and children's work can be used to support festival assemblies. Photographs of class and festival assemblies can be taken and displayed in school.

### **Celebrating festivals during the Covid Period**

During this period, festivals will be celebrated in individual classes led by the class teacher. Parents and outside agencies will not be able to participate in the celebration of the festival in school. Resources will be available online through the following link:

[www.servicesforeducation.co.uk/collective-worship/](http://www.servicesforeducation.co.uk/collective-worship/)