



Grove School

Collective Worship and Assemblies

September 2017

Mission statement:

“Enjoy, learn, achieve”

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Grove school

Policy for Collective Worship and Assemblies

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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 be 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 Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.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 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.

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 SIMS diary.

Some themes occur on a bi-yearly basis, others on an annual basis (festivals, seasons) and some on a termly basis (achievement, bullying).

F Resources

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

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. If visitors from outside school are invited to talk to children in assemblies the No Platform policy must be adhered to and agreement sought from Mrs Matty by the year group leader using the Visitors to School policy.

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.