

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**Notice to staff using a paper copy of this policy**

Learn Liskeard holds the most recent procedural version of this guidance. Staff must ensure they are using the most recent guidance

First issued: February 2009

Updated: July 2016, Sept 2018, Jan 2020

Linked policies:

- Equality
- Curriculum (Religious Education)

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires that every school should provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Collective worship should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular denomination.
- 1.2 Collective worship is not the same as corporate worship. Corporate worship is the worship of people who have a common understanding of what worship includes and who share the same beliefs. Our community school is not a worshipping community as those pupils who have a faith are diverse in what they believe, in what they believe God is and in what they believe worship to that God or Gods should entail.

## **2 Rationale**

- 2.1 To be meaningful for pupils, collective worship enables them to reflect on:
- what it means to be a human being;
  - questions of meaning, purpose and spiritual well-being;
  - the best that human beings can be – inspirational, exemplars (people of faith or not) who have demonstrated through their personal qualities, actions and lives; (examples will come from religious and non-religious sources)
  - personal beliefs and values;
  - human existence in relation to peoples of the world, nature and the environment.
- 2.2 The collective worship that we deliver will recognise and value the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population and will be in line with our Equality Policy.

## **3 Aims**

- 3.1 Collective worship will enrich the experiences of pupils through:
- reflection on questions such as belonging to the school community, the wider community and to humanity as a whole;
  - reinforcing a sense of community cohesion through appreciating those things we have in common;
  - developing a reflective approach to life;
  - supporting pupils in the development of spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives
  - developing a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, the material, and the here and now;
  - providing time to consider values and beliefs – both their own and those of others;
  - raising awareness of difficulties experienced living a life based on values, beliefs and principles which may not be shared by everyone in the wider community;
  - providing opportunity to celebrate achievement and to share times of celebration;
  - supporting students in responding to crisis at a personal and collective level and provide them with a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses;
  - supporting those who have particular needs or who are experiencing times of crisis.
- 3.2 Collective worship will reinforce the sense of the school community, by giving pupils the opportunity to share things of worth with each other, within a reflective space.
- 3.2.1 Those pupils who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider issues in the light of their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate. Those pupils who don't have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal internalised response to the same stimulus. They will also be able to enter into dialogue with those of faith, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each other's stances.
- 3.3 The language of invitation to reflect will be open and inclusive, ensuring that no pupil or adult present feels their beliefs have been compromised and ensuring that they are able to participate and grow spiritually.

## **4 Content**

- 4.1 Examples of collective worship activities which might be included in our programme:

- a) marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community;
- b) examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings;
- c) stories supporting themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular books;
- d) response to key local, national and international events;
- e) providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs whether religious or otherwise;
- f) consideration of questions we may not think about elsewhere;
- g) putting things into practice e.g. supporting charities;
- h) providing a moment for silent reflection/prayer;
- i) celebration of successes of members of the school community;
- j) performances or presentations from members of the school community;
- k) input from visiting speakers/experts;
- l) music, live and recorded.

## **5 Organisation**

5.1 Each year group will have an assembly with their Head of Year and a member of the chaplaincy team who will lead the year group in an act of collective worship based around a central theme for the fortnightly cycle.

## **6. Invited Speaker Protocol**

6.1 Any guest speaker is invited with authority from the Headteacher. The Head or Senior Manager or teacher responsible for the visitor will have a preparatory discussion with the guest prior to their visit. A senior member of staff will attend the assembly in question and will be prepared to intervene should there be any question of suitability. Evangelical approaches are not permitted.

6.2 Visitors will be provided with a copy of our Visitors' Code prior to their visit.

## **7. Planning and Monitoring**

7.1 The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for ensuring the cohesion and smooth running of the Policy.

7.2 It will be monitored by feedback from members of the Senior Team and through student/staff voice responses.

## **8. Right of Withdrawal**

8.1 Parents are informed in our Prospectus of their right to withdraw their children from collective worship. The school undertakes to seek to persuade all parents that their children do attend as individual members of the collective, to share in the confirmation of our school's inclusive ethos.

8.2 Parents have the right to request the removal of their child from the Collective Act of Worship/Assembly. This should be put in writing to the Headteacher, outlining the reasons for the request. If the request is upheld, the pupil will need to:  
Report to their tutor so that they can be registered as present and should wait for any notices, then wait in an area agreed by their Head of Year; for assembly time, parents should provide suitable alternative provision/materials for the child for the 25 minute period.