



Collective Worship Policy

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Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Best Practice
School or Trust Policy	School

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01637 303106 or email info@kernowlearning.co.uk.

The Collective Worship Policy at Beacon School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE.

The Collective Worship Policy of Beacon School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed on the schools website.

Legal Requirements

(For details see School Standard and Framework Act 1998 and Circular 1/94)

- All pupils must take part in a daily act of collective worship, unless they have been withdrawn from it by their parents/ carers.
- Parents / Carers have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
- As Beacon School is a part of the Kernow Learning Multi-Academy Trust, collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', that is be within the broad traditions of Christian beliefs, on the majority of occasions.
- Collective worship must be non-denominational.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Part 1.

Aims of Collective Worship :-

For the School

Collective Worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and contributes significantly to the ethos of Beacon school. Worship is understood as an act of collective worship and can be interpreted very openly and widely as an act which brings a school group to a point where they are able to make a shared, reflective response to a divine being, power, ideal or value of some worth, wholly or mainly within the broad traditions of Christian belief on the majority of occasions.

Collective worship is an essential element in Beacon schools' promotion of the spiritual and moral development of pupils as required by ERA 1988. During Collective Worship times it is our aim that the school community can provide opportunities for pupils:-

Aims agreed with the governors to be the following:-

- To establish, affirm and celebrate the common and shared values of the school.
- To nurture the identity and nature of the school as a community.
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To consider spiritual and moral issues
- To develop positive attitudes among the pupils.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- To respond to the worship offered
- To enable pupils to come to terms with their own beliefs, values and commitments, and with those of others.
- In short to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments of pupils.

Approaches

Worship is provided through the following means: (egs)

- Whole school acts of worship in assembly.
- Acts of worship within a Key Stage group
- Acts of worship in class / set group

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond

- reflect on what it means to be human
- to be able to see their lives as part of the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Beacon School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

Responsibility for collective worship in Beacon School lies with the head teacher. Their task is:

- To provide a rota of leaders of worship.
- To provide a sequence of themes for each term.
- To liaise with the local community in terms of visitors etc.

Methods:

There should be a suitable variety of methods for collective worship to enable the experience to be as valid and relevant to the pupils as possible. There will also be a ritual element associated with some of these methods to allow the pupils to benefit from the security and pattern of worshipping together. A variety of presentation, format, style, intent, theme, prayer and music is seen as essential. Theme – reflection – response is a typical format for the act of worship.

These strategies / methods will include the following as is appropriate to the nature of the occasion: -

- An atmosphere conducive to the nature of a particular act of worship
- The use of music, recorded or live for entry, exit and during worship
- Hymn singing.
- Power-points, video clips
- News feeds
- Artefacts
- Dance
- Drama
- Readings and stories from sacred books (including the bible) and other books and sources of worth
- Use of prayers, including the children's own, and the Lord's Prayer.
- Silent and spoken contemplation, inward and outward, quiet and loud, sorrowful and joyful, personal and corporate, reflective and affirmative

Resources

Resources are available from the R.E. resources situated in the resources cupboard, the headteachers office and from the school library. The use of the internet to access BBC assemblies and other assembly platforms.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, or the classroom.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Leadership

Members of the school senior leadership team and occasional visitors will be involved in leading whole school acts of worship as time-tabled across the year.

Occasionally class teachers will lead a whole school assembly if staff absences occur or the assembly theme relates to their subject leadership area.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Each term there will be weekly themes for assemblies. Assemblies will be planned to include an act of collective worship which will be linked to the theme for that week, or any listed celebrations, special occasions and events from all faiths.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Beacon School. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase

the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

Withdrawal

Any parent/ carer who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the head teacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Part 2.

Visitors to Collective Worship

Introduction

Visitors can contribute much to the education of pupils in general and to the experience of collective worship in particular and as such are valued by the school. This policy seeks to clarify the role of visitors to collective worship and puts in place some safeguards for them and for the school.

The Role of Visitors to Collective Worship

Visitors bring to collective worship their experience of the world and their perspective on the world from a faith position. Nevertheless, visitors will be made aware of the policy that the school has on collective worship and will be asked to abide by that policy.

It is not the purpose of collective worship to proselytise among pupils and this should be made clear to all visitors.

School Collective Worship Programme

It will be the norm that visitors contributing to collective worship shall do so by contributing to the theme indicated for that week. However, for specific purposes visitors can be asked to deviate from the programme, especially where they might have a particular contribution to make in their own right.

Supervision of visitors

As a matter of policy, visitors shall not be left alone with children. They should be welcomed at reception, supervised during their time at the school and as a matter of courtesy escorted to the exit, in line with the school's safeguarding policy.

Evaluating Contributions to collective worship

As a key feature of schools is the striving for continued improvement, collective worship is not immune to the need for improvement. Where a visitor contributes on a rare occasion, the teacher responsible for collective worship shall write, offering thanks and if necessary, giving feedback. Where a visitor is a regular contributor, the school will perform a simple annual review, which will look at the nature of future contributions in light of the schools programme. All visiting collective worship leaders will be given a copy of the Appendix checklist in preparation for their visit.

Appendix 1.

Checklist for staff and visitors leading Collective Worship

Aims

- To establish, affirm and celebrate the common and shared values of the school.
- To nurture the identity and nature of the school as a community.
- To develop positive attitudes among the pupils.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- To enable pupils to come to terms with their own beliefs, values and commitments, and with those of others.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to experience and raise awareness of 'awe and wonder'.

Collective worship should be based on identified themes for the term unless it is a special occasion.

It should be generally no more than 15 minutes unless time-scale agreed in advance

It should be broadly Christian, though not denominational, and include elements which specifically relate to traditions of Christian belief.

It should include reference to a 'divine being or power'.

The worship should be inclusive to accommodate the needs of non-Christian families.

There needs to be a hymn and / time for a prayer or reflection.

Pupils may be invited to pray or listen to a prayer which they may wish to assent but should not be forced to pray against their will.

Music should be included to promote spiritual development.