



Chiltern Way Academy

Turning Futures Around

Collective Worship Policy

Responsibility for this policy (job title): Assistant Head

Responsibility for its review: CEO

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Collective Worship

Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship.

Collective worship will be addressed mainly through reward and celebration assemblies and house events and will be based on a thematic approach which will be 'broadly Christian character' and those that are must reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominational. Many of the characteristics of Christianity are shared by all the faiths. It is important to concentrate on these as well as those specific to Christianity.

Prayer

To be inclusive in our worship in this school, we take family backgrounds of our pupils into consideration, then, when according a special status to Jesus Christ, all pupils, whatever their beliefs, need to be respected. It is therefore appropriate to tell stories of the life of Jesus, but inappropriate for all pupils to be required to address Him in prayer.

We feel that prayer is a good way of enabling pupils to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils will not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introductions to our prayers which distances pupils, but give them the opportunity to participate if they so desire; e.g., 'And now in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well known Christian/ Hindu/ Muslim prayer/poem/reading...' In this way we are able to use prayers from many different traditions. It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

Aims

We believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives pupils to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for pupils to:

- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and students
- Provide an experience that provides the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of students
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community, and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Encourage a respect for self and engender a concern for the needs of others
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Help address the whole school approach to SMSC and the promotion of 'British Values'
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Support the teaching and provision of RE across the school

Implementation

- All staff will take responsibility for the delivery of collective worship
- Outside agencies will also be invited to lead collective worship.
- A programme of themes will be established at the beginning of the academic year and a rota of staff will be arranged. Themes may be changed due to newsworthy events. Not all themes need to follow the rota with the provision that it has been agreed with the collective worship coordinator
- Collective worship will in the main be addressed during reward assemblies
- Assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of pupils, and offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. We encourage pupils to participate in assemblies by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.
- We will choose from a range of methods, including: pupil's contributions; sacred and secular stories/readings, Drama; Prayer/reflection/meditation/music, artefacts/natural materials; visual aids/focal point; dialogue/creative silence and visitors

Planning, Recording and Review

In this school we combine our acts of worship with Rewards assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership and during student forum meetings with a teacher, this group comes up with many assembly ideas and gets other pupils involved.

- We plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.
- The collective worship coordinator will review themes along with the thoughts of the member of staff delivering the collective worship.
- The co-ordinator for collective worship should keep copies of the themes delivered, either in the collective worship file or on the school's shared area. The content and methodology should be varied.

Each child will receive Religious Studies lessons and/or PSHCEE/citizenship lesson each week, dependent on year group and pupil needs, unless their parents/ carers have given permission for them to be withdrawn.