



Repton Manor Primary School

Collective Worship Policy May 2015

Written by	M Rawling	Signed
Date approved by Governing Body		
Reviewed	Outcome	

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

Our children come from a variety of faith backgrounds and bring with them different beliefs and values which determine the ways in which they lead their lives. It is also recognised that some come from homes which do not practice any religion. The act of collective worship provides an opportunity for all our children and staff to share in a unique sense of belonging, whilst retaining their own integrity and identity. It is clearly distinguishable from everyday activities of the school and is appropriate to the needs and interests of the children. The act of worship makes a positive and significant contribution to the ethos of the school and everyone feels secure in contributing and participating as appropriate.

Collective worship and the law

We comply with legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils/students on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s) 'on grounds of conscience'. Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. The majority of our acts of collective worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in Ashford, Kent and in Great Britain.

Purposes

- To foster a sense of community.
- To offer a time for contemplation and reflection.
- To promote the spiritual growth and development of the children.
- To celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for individuals, the school and the wider community.
- To provide a context for consideration of moral, ethical, social and cultural issues.
- To appreciate similarities and to celebrate difference and diversity.

Equal Opportunities

We ensure that all children feel secure in sharing their own religious beliefs and practices, including acknowledging non-belief, and they are treated with sensitivity and respect.

The organisation of collective worship offers different styles of leadership and grouping which promotes equal access to the act of worship.

Many world faiths contain a diversity of doctrines and care is taken not to make over-generalisations, e.g. we use the term “many Hindus believe” rather than “Hindus believe”.

Children are made aware through story and discussion that all religious traditions promote tolerance and justice.

Behaviour Expectations

- Children enter the place of worship in silence to suitable music.
- Children participate actively in community singing as appropriate.
- During the opportunities for reflection, children sit still in silence, engaging in their own way with this reflection.
- Children listen actively and interact positively.

Resources

A wide variety of multi-media resources are used to support collective worship including the use of interactive whiteboard and downloadable internet resources as well as books, artefacts and music. Staff are aware and model appropriate ways of handling, displaying and storing religious artefacts.

Visiting speakers are used as “experts” to contribute to collective worship, for example leading prayers during Ramadan. Children provide a valuable resource by relating their own experiences of worship.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that the requirements of the law are met in relation to the act of collective worship. S/he ensures that the policy is followed and periodically reviewed. S/he has the responsibility for the management and organisation of resources and parental involvement.