



Collective Worship Policy

School Aims and Implementation

Chancellor Park Primary School aims to provide children the opportunity to develop towards their full potential; academically, emotionally and socially:

- Providing the highest standard of education to enable children to acquire the skills, knowledge and concepts relevant to their future.
- Promoting an ethos of care, mutual respect and support, where effort is valued and success celebrated.
- Enabling children to become active, responsible and caring members of the school and wider community.

The school works towards these aims by:

- Promoting high quality learning and attainment.
- Providing a high quality learning entitlement and environment.
- Valuing each other and ourselves.
- Working in partnership with parents and the community.

Collective Worship - Legal requirements (Local Authority Guidance)

1. The Education Reform Act, states that all pupils at a maintained school take part in an act of collective worship every day, and that this shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. It also states that parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or part of collective worship.
2. The definition for "Worship" is drawn from the DFE circular 1/94; "Worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power....worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common."
3. Schools should provide opportunities for worship to happen and enable pupils to respond reflectively. The primary function of the daily act of collective worship is an educational one; that is to promote spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development.
4. Therefore, collective worship should be active rather than passive and directed towards something personal (e.g. thinking about someone, or a value, or a time for reflection and response).

Collective Worship Policy – Introduction

- At Chancellor Park Primary School, Collective Worship is often set within the context of 'Assemblies' – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.
- The act of Collective Worship must be seen as a distinct aspect of an assembly;
 - Collective Worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon life experiences and ultimate questions. It should allow the pupils to be able to make a spiritual response.
 - An assembly is a gathering of part or all of the children and staff at the school. It is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life.
- Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth.
- Collective Worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly every day. These assemblies may involve all of the pupils in the school in whole school assemblies, joint year group assemblies or class based acts of collective worship; with their times varying accordingly.

Aims

General

Assemblies and Collective Worship at Chancellor Park Primary School are to be both spiritual and educational and are recognised as having a major contribution to the spiritual and moral development of all pupils.

School Staff

Through Collective Worship we aim to:

- Provide an all-inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values;
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth;
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development;
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together;
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community;
- Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.

Children

Through collective worship we aim to encourage and promote the opportunity for children to:

- Learn about life, each other, the community and the world they live in;
- Learn about and promote greater understanding, tolerance and respect for each other's cultures and beliefs;
- Help develop empathy, caring and sensitivity and a positive self image;
- Celebrate in each other's successes and achievements through sharing work and ideas, thereby developing a sense of belonging to the school community;
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of the importance of religious stories and ideas found in Christianity and other major religions;
- Reflect upon the purpose and meaning of things;
- Appreciate and celebrate festivals within the school community;
- Encourage appropriate behaviour within specific social settings and gatherings and reflect on matters of right and wrong.

Collective Worship will not:

- Be insensitive to the cultural diversity of the school community;
- Expect children to behave in a way that undermines their personal and/or religious beliefs;
- Seek to preach or convert.

Parents and Carers

- To be understanding and supportive of our aims regarding assemblies and Collective Worship;
- To support the children with any task that they may be preparing for an assembly or act of Collective Worship in School;
- To encourage and praise their child's efforts when the child is participating in an assembly or act of Collective Worship;
- To attend School whenever possible to attend any of the assemblies and/or acts of Collective Worship which are open to parents/carers.

Governors

- Governors will find out about;
 - ❖ the school's systems for planning Collective Worship, supporting staff and monitoring provision and responses;
 - ❖ the allocation, use and adequacy of resources.
- a) visit the School and talk to pupils about their experiences of Collective Worship;
- b) promote and support the positive involvement of parents with regards to Collective Worship;
- c) attend training and other events relating to the provision of Collective Worship;
- To be understanding and supportive of our aims in teaching and learning through Collective Worship and review the Collective Worship Policy.

Implementation of the Collective Worship Policy

1. Underlying principles

- We are proud of the diversity of the school community and as such assemblies and acts of Collective Worship at Chancellor Park Primary School reflect and celebrate the traditions of the major world religions, particularly those that are represented in the school and the wider community.
- Assemblies and acts of Collective Worship are therefore non-denominational and conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.
- Assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding achievement assemblies and class assemblies; during which children can show their work and successes to others, and can raise issues that they have discussed in their classes. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued.
- Assemblies are regarded as a special time in the day of calm reflection and are conducted accordingly. Children are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully throughout any assembly or act of collective worship and are asked to come in and leave assemblies quietly.

2. Planning and Organization

- The Collective Worship (Religious Education and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) Subject Leaders are responsible for planning the Collective Worship themes after consultation with the Headteacher. Themes for a whole term are devised at the end of the previous term using festival dates, important events which link to school life and important dates within the wider community.
- Whole school assemblies are held twice every week and are led by either the Senior Management Team or Class Teachers. In both key stages joint class based Collective Worship is held every Tuesday, and Thursday. Whole School Achievement assemblies are held every Friday, led by the Headteacher, to celebrate children's achievements.

3. Staffing

- Assemblies are conducted by all teaching members of the School staff.
- Sometimes any of these assemblies might have contributions from or be led by visitors to the school. When we invite visitors to participate in assemblies or acts of collective worship they are expected to work within our themes and guidelines.

4. Assembly and Collective Worship Themes

- Weekly assembly themes will be established at the beginning of the three main school terms by the Religious Education and the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural subject leaders, after consultation with the Headteacher.
- Where possible weekly themes will be chosen to link with specific dates within the calendar of the major world religions; notably those of the Christian and other community faiths and/or other events occurring in the wider or school community, and include Chancellor Park Primary's Core Values.
- Themes are very broad to allow for flexibility and variety of delivery.
- The development of the theme will be structured across the week within whole school or class based assemblies to reflect the aims and objectives identified within this document in order to develop a broad approach and to link with a number of curriculum areas.
- On occasions staff may divert from our planned theme in order to respond to a significant news item or an important and unexpected event shared by members of the School community.

Acts of Collective Worship: Good Practice

- The Teaching and Learning Policy identifies the aims, principles and strategies for promoting effective teaching and learning at Chancellor Park Primary School. These apply to the provision of assemblies and Collective Worship as well as all curriculum subject areas.
- We will always seek to make the worship appropriate to age, ability and family background of the pupils. Wherever possible we will seek to include pupils in planning and leading of acts of worship. Resources for worship are kept in the resources cupboard.
- Children must be engaged in a whole school or class based assembly; which includes an act of Collective Worship on a daily basis.
- Chancellor Park Primary School seeks to incorporate the following in all acts of Collective Worship. These include:
 - a) Thorough planning; which includes the appropriateness of the acts of Collective Worship for the children concerned (i.e. age, aptitude, background);
 - b) The use of themes;
 - c) Children actively participating and involved in the act of worship;
 - d) A built in time for the children's own reflection. This may be a prayer, poem or guided reflection. (This part must take place for it to be Collective Worship.) Silence can allow time for individual thought and reflection, or prayer as appropriate;
 - e) Clear links being identified between Collective Worship and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
 - f) The use of outside speakers;
 - g) Affirming and expressing the school's ethos;
 - h) Use of stimulus e.g. music, picture, quotation. There is a need to give the children time to prepare. A well chosen piece of music can help create an atmosphere for worship and reflection.
 - i) Engaging the children e.g. the use of visual aids and artefacts will usually enable children to focus on a particular story, article, drama or message.
 - j) Evaluation of Collective Worship

Assessment, Record Keeping and Reporting

- Assemblies and acts of Collective Worship are evaluated by the teacher leading the assembly. Teachers need to make a judgement about the children's level of engagement and response (verbal and non-verbal) not a judgement about the delivery of the assembly content. At Chancellor Park Primary School we aim for 'All children to be fully engaged and make pertinent and thoughtful responses.' Assemblies are handed to either the Religious Education or Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural subject leaders, for monitoring, recording and evaluating purposes.

Inclusion

- Inclusion is about every child having educational needs that are special and the School meeting these diverse needs in order to ensure the active participation and progress of all children in their learning.
- Successful inclusive provision at Chancellor Park Primary School is seen as the responsibility of the whole school community, permeating all aspects of school life and applicable to all our pupils. It is in this way that we will turn the rhetoric into reality.
- Inclusive practice should enable all children to participate in and develop through the provision of assemblies and Collective Worship; whatever their ability, gender, ethnic, social or cultural background, home language or any other aspect that could affect their participation in, or development.
- We attempt to be inclusive in our acts of worship and respect individual beliefs and values and maintain the integrity of all participants.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

- Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship.
- However parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship after consultation with the Headteacher. Alternative supervision will be provided for the child during this period.
- Staff have the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship after consultation with the Headteacher; this needs to be agreed both verbally and in written form. Staff who withdraw from acts of collective worship will be expected to attend the remainder of any assembly when invited and to fulfil their standard duties of supervision and care of children entering and exiting any assembly.

Monitoring and Review

- The monitoring of the standards of the children's responses and of the quality of provision regarding Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Religious Education and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Subject Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team.
- The Religious Education and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural subject leaders are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the provision of Collective Worship, for keeping informed about current developments in the area and for providing a strategic lead and direction for Collective Worship in the school.
- The Religious Education and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural subject leaders regularly discuss the provision of Collective Worship with the Headteacher and provide an annual Subject Leader Plan in which they record and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Collective Worship at the School and indicate areas for further improvement through written targets.
- During the year, the Religious Education and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural subject leaders have specially-allocated time for carrying out the vital task of monitoring Collective Worship; both whole school and joint class assemblies but also for visiting classes to observe the provision of class based Collective Worship.
- The Governing Body have a legal duty to monitor and review the provision of Collective Worship at the School and this Policy. They seek to do this through reviewing the Policy, meeting with the Religious Education and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Subject Leaders, the Head teacher and other senior leaders and through attending both assemblies and class based acts of Collective Worship.

This policy was written in Spring 2016 and shared with all staff and governors.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years, unless the need for review arises beforehand.