

Fiddlers Lane

Community Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Signed by the Chair of Governors	
Name: Jayne Playfair	
Signature: Jayne Playfair	Date: 25 th November 2019
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Fiddlers Lane Community Primary

School Collective Worship Policy.

Rationale

There is a legal requirement for schools to conduct a 'daily act of collective worship' (The 1988 Education Act and subsequent Acts). School Collective Worship should recognise that the school community is a collection of people. Thus, acts of Collective Worship should be sensitive to the collective character of individual schools and to be inclusive the term must be interpreted in a way which is meaningful to the range of communities it serves. The school community will usually include people from a variety of cultural and faith, and non-faith backgrounds.

Therefore,

- The term "collective" when used in relation to worship in schools refers to the gathering together of a school group or groups for worship; it does not in any way suggest an act of worship which involves a group meeting to subscribe to any particular faith or denomination of a faith.
- Collective worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs, and should not seek uniform responses from pupils. Collective Worship caters for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals.

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to provide a thinking and reflection time for pupils. Collective worship involves all members of the school or class coming together and participating in an assembly or collective worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly/collective worship.

Aims and Objectives

School assembly and/or collective worship encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. It both reflects and nurtures the whole ethos of the school. In particular, assembly develops the feeling of belonging to a community, which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

The aims and purpose of collective worship include:

- to show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- to celebrate special occasions together
- to show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world therefore developing 'community spirit'.
- to share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of beliefs, values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn....;

- 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.
- to encourage participation and response;

Organisation of Collective Worship and class assemblies

KS1 and KS2 assembly

This assembly takes place four times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays for reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils. Nursery pupils come into whole school assemblies when relevant.

The themes of these assemblies are either based around British Values or religious festivals, for example Diwali or other significant events/day taking place that week, for example Mother's Day. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place. Records of themes and content are recorded for each assembly. The Headteacher, a member of the Senior Leadership Team normally conduct these assemblies, but occasionally local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

Wednesday assemblies are an opportunity for the school to come together and sing songs from different times and cultures.

There are also Empowering Learning and attendance assemblies on Mondays.

Whole School Assembly Friday

Our whole school celebration assembly takes place at the end of each week. Pupils appreciate that this is a special time in the week. It reflects the achievements and learning of the children. Parents are invited to attend this assembly and are notified, in advance, if their child will be receiving a certificate or an award.

These assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Fiddlers Lane Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We regard them as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully. The Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team usually conduct these assemblies.

Special Assemblies / Class celebrations

Each class leads an assembly throughout the year. They celebrate the work pupils have done across the curriculum. Parents and carers are invited to these assemblies. All staff and all pupils attend these events.

The Green Safety Team, School council, E-safety council and other groups within school also regularly lead assemblies.

House Captains along with staff, lead the assemblies for each house. These are a celebration of the work of the authors represented by the four houses.

Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

At the end of each day the Nursery and Reception classes take a short time to reflect on a piece of music, a picture or something in nature. Or they may say a class prayer, sing a song or listen to an appropriate story etc. This enables the children to have a moment of peace and reflection.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly/collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.