



Water Orton Primary School Policy for Collective Worship

Collective worship occupies a unique place in the life of schools. "Worship" has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some this will be personal devotion to God; for others it will mean reflection on & understanding of those elements of life which are of value & worth.

Our aims:

- ◆ Collective worship will contribute to the children's spiritual and moral growth by providing space & time for reflection, prayer, praise & celebration.
- ◆ To enable pupils to feel involved in school worship, to celebrate / reflect on events, talents and achievements.
- ◆ To make worship a meaningful experience for all involved, enabling children to appreciate their worth and value in the community.

Legal requirements:

Worship is required by law. It is not the same as an assembly but it may form part of an assembly.

The main requirements are:

- a. Worship should be held daily but may be at any time of the day
- b. It may be for different age groups & need not be the whole school together
- c. It shall be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". However it should be non-denominational
- d. It should be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes & family backgrounds of the pupils.

Parental rights:

Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship or any particular part of collective worship if they so wish, and will be asked to put their request in writing to the Head teacher. Responsibility for the supervision of those pupils remains with the school however it is the responsibility of the parent to provide alternative and appropriate activities for the children to complete during the time that others are engaged in collective worship.

Worship at Water Orton:

Most collective worship will take place during assemblies which will be based on a weekly theme. Festivals, celebrations or important events will be included, especially those that reinforce British Values.

We regularly invite visitors to take part in or lead our assemblies. These visits are carefully planned and often reinforce the school's own weekly theme.

Organisation

When collective worship takes place in an assembly this may be for the whole school, a phase group or Key Stage. Every week at least one assembly is held in the children's own classroom.

In order for our assemblies to time of quiet and calm the following guidelines should be observed:

- Children should enter the hall quietly or in a manner which focusses attention on the spiritual / moral theme of the assembly (e.g. with an appropriate song / poem, often led by the house captains).
- Each week a variety of visual / auditory stimuli will be chosen for the children to promote engagement quiet contemplation – or 'collective reflection'.
- Children will be actively encouraged to join in the act of worship / contemplation / reflection
- Children should leave the hall quietly or in a manner which focusses attention on the spiritual / moral theme of the assembly (e.g. with an appropriate song / poem often led by the house captains).

