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Lanesend Primary School

Collective Worship and Assemblies Policy 2022 Statutory Policy

Signed: Date:
(Headteacher)

Signed: Date:
(Chair of Trustees)

Review Date: January 2024 (Every 2 Years)

Reviewed By: Curriculum Lead for Religious Education and
Teaching and Learning Group

Lanesend Primary School
Collective Worship and Assemblies
Policy

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide opportunities for the children to learn about God;
- to enhance children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness through self-reflection;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;

Collective Worship

Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in a moment of thought and reflection.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our learning on the teachings of Christ, traditions of the Christian Church and British values. Our collective worship often involves reflection on the things, or principles, that give children's lives meaning. We also focus on the importance of community cohesion, the awe and wonder of life and the beauty of the natural world.

We conduct our learning in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We plan for regular moments of thought and reflection in our school; which may form part of assemblies or learning in the classroom. On one occasion per week we hold a music assembly which may end with a moment of reflection on the music shared. Our weekly Celebration Assembly is based around celebrating success during the week both in and out of school.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it 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 to the learning and participate fully. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or any other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Headteacher or other members of the teaching staff normally conduct

assemblies, but on occasions an external visitor may lead the session. The Baptist Church visit weekly to take assemblies from stories of the bible and once a month, the vicar from Gurnard Church will also take assembly. We encourage representations from all faiths. We plan our assemblies to support the needs of our community, the Social and Emotional learning of our children and relevant religious events, through all faiths.

Our assemblies are also valuable occasions to reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. At Lanesend Primary School, we like to celebrate the successes of all the children publicly.

We invite families to assembly on a weekly basis, and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome Trustees' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly, 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. Families do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was re-stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and Review

The implementation of this policy is monitored and reviewed by the Trustee body through direct discussion with the Headteacher, staff, children and/or by being in attendance on occasions throughout the year.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.