

Lakenham Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

In LA schools the Education Reform Act Section 7 requires collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, that is, it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief.

Christians share many beliefs and practices, attitudes and customs with those of other faiths and those of none. It is these broad traditions of belief which underline collective worship at Lakenham Primary School.

Through the use of songs, story, drama, dance, prayer, music, readings and silence people may come to a deeper understanding of the spiritual dimension to their lives. They may come to a greater awareness of other people, themselves and their world in the light of which they may go out to live and work in the community.

Worship

It must be recognised that the inward response of each person present constitutes worship and not the repetition of songs and prayers. These may be a vehicle of worship but they are not worship itself. Staff and pupils should be given opportunity to respond in their own way so that no-one is excluded by reason of background, culture, religions or non-religious stance. "Worship" = Anglo-Saxon for "honour" to give worth to something/someone.

Collective worship at Lakenham Primary School is for all pupils and staff. It forms either all or a small part of an assembly. Collective Worship has the potential to unite the whole school membership to help develop a sense of community. Collective worship is part of the school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a time to celebrate the worth and value of all in the school community.

Collective worship at Lakenham Primary School should comply with DFEE Circular 1/94 "Religious Education and Collective Worship" which states that collective worship:-

- a) is intended to be such that children from a non-Christian background can take part
- b) must contain some element which can be related to the Christian tradition
- c) must accord some special status to the person of Jesus Christ
- d) must not be denominational
- e) may contain some non-Christian element

A balance should be sought during any term.

Beliefs that are 'broadly Christian' yet common to other major world faiths include:- God, justice, love, peace, good, evil, greed, poverty, pollution, morality, tolerance, co-operation, selfishness, war, prejudice. Values we feel are important to our school community include:- respect, trust, fairness, understanding, tolerance, appreciation, responsibility, caring, co-operation, patience, peace, honesty, courage, freedom, quality, friendship, humility, happiness, thoughtfulness. Such is the scope available to the person leading collective worship. Through themes such as these the spiritual awareness of every individual may be developed. We offer children opportunities to explore and share beliefs, to consider the relevance of ideas, beliefs and values to their own lives and to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a community.

Collective Worship and Assembly

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of collective worship to take place during an assembly. It is a special time for all present to reflect up on their life experiences and to seek awareness to ultimate questions as far as they are able. It is a time when children can celebrate social and academic achievement and to foster positive values held by the school, the local community and the wider world.

Parents may ask that their children are withdrawn from religious assemblies and religious education lessons and such requests should be made in writing.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Monday	Whole School Assembly, usually taken by a senior member of staff - often the Head or Assistant Headteacher.
Tuesday	Class Based Assembly - usually in the form of a Circle Time.
Wednesday	Class Assembly - one class each week takes an assembly on a particular theme
Thursday	Phase Assembly.
Friday	Good Work Assembly.

Good Work assemblies celebrate the achievements of individual children in their school work, out of school activities and from home.

The teaching staff and teaching assistants attend Monday, Wednesday and Friday assemblies. A representative from each year group is present for the Thursday assembly.

Outside agencies, charities and individuals including ministers of local churches and leaders of other faiths are invited to take part in school assemblies.

Themes for assemblies may include

Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term
The New Year	Journeys	Caring
Families	Signs and symbols	Rules
Talents	Gifts	Helping
Trust	Colour	Forgiveness
Consideration	Surprises	Community
Forgiveness	Disappointment	Friends
Sharing	Homes	Harvest
Wisdom	Faith	Love
Our Senses	Happiness	Light/Darkness/Diwali
Joy/Sorrow	Sport/Games	Advent
Easter	Change	Christmas
Easter	Moving on	Christmas

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