

Collective Worship Policy

This policy is a whole school policy including EYFS

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- 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 common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in assemblies. We expect everyone to take an active part in assemblies.

2.2 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 assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church but also conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold regular acts of collective worship in our school each week. This forms part of daily assemblies, which is normally a whole-school assembly, although sometimes we also hold separate stage/class assemblies.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. 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 and participate fully.

3.3 The principal, school chaplain and other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other people from the community may conduct them instead.

3.4 We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place, covering aspects of Christianity, world religions, virtues and current affairs.

Springmead School

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Review period: 2 years

3.5 Some of our assemblies 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.

3.6 We invite parents to class assemblies on a regular 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.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 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. 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.

4.2 The principal keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship and will be detailed on individual personal files.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 This policy is the principal's ongoing responsibility and its effectiveness is reviewed annually in consultation with the staff.

Signed:

Date: