



BIDBURY INFANT SCHOOL

Board of Governors

The Governors' Policy Statement on Collective Worship

PRINCIPLES

As a school we follow all statutory requirements and we have taken into account the Hampshire Collective Worship in Schools Guidelines.

Collective Worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled.

Collective Worship in school is open to all staff and pupils and no assumptions are made about their personal commitment. Although we value Collective Worship, we recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of Collective Worship. Our policy on Collective Worship will be available to any parent who requests more information.

Whilst awareness of other religious traditions and beliefs may be raised, we recognise that the proper place for fuller exploration of these issues is in Religious Education.

We interpret "Worship" as:-

a time of reflection and stillness where we gather together to share experiences, celebrate life and acknowledge the existence of a greater power or divine being.

AIMS

1. To provide an opportunity for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.
2. To create a feeling of Community, built on mutual respect.
3. To put aside a time for
 - a. sharing experiences and feelings i.e. being aware of own and sensitive to those of others.
 - b. reflection and stillness - a quiet time set apart from the general hustle and bustle of the school day.
 - c. celebrating things held to be of worth - both within the school community and in the wider world.
4. To develop
 - a. a knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship.
 - b. an awareness of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship.

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

1. The majority of acts of Collective Worship will be based on the broad principles and values of Christianity. The majority of themes explored will be appropriate to pupils whatever their background or personal beliefs, whether Christian or otherwise.
2. A collective act of worship should provide opportunities to:-
 - focus on a particular issue by providing a stimulus
 - encourage reflection on the theme
 - respond in a variety of ways, such as
 - prayer
 - singing
 - movement
 - drama
 - experiencing stillness
 - thinking time
3. We would like to develop a sense of reverence over a period of time through the recognition of the importance of the occasion when we meet to affirm and celebrate the worthiness of the values which are of central importance to our community.
4. We would like to create an atmosphere of stillness and calmness prior to the start of Collective Worship. We hope to achieve this by asking for the children to be quiet on entering the hall. Music will be played at this time.

THEMES

We will set up an annual list of suitable themes linked to the PSHE themes so that each week of each year in our school a child will have a different focus for thought.

Each term there may also be ‘one off’ subjects for Collective Worship. This could be for topics such as road safety, local and national events etc. Where possible these will be planned into the long term programme but a certain amount of flexibility must be allowed to meet any unexpected need.

The themes will be discussed each term and amended where necessary. A list of the themes will be placed on the staff notice board.

The whole school meets in the Hall for Collective Worship on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday the children take part in year group assemblies.

The headteacher leads the act of Collective Worship on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon when she is available; the deputy headteacher or other teachers will lead collective worship in her absence. There will be times when the Reverend from the local church and other visitors will lead or take part in collective acts of worship.

Children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship at their parent’s request, will be supervised, by a member of staff (i.e. learning support assistant) within the library or classroom situation.

Administrative and disciplinary matters will, as far as is possible, be separated from the act of Collective Worship.

There are a variety of methods of presentation that may be used in Collective Worship. These include;

- Stories
- Poems
- Artefacts
- Pictures
- Discussions
- Remembering
- Drama
- Practical activities
- Singing
- Prayers
- Quiet reflection time

Both the deputy headteacher and the RE manager will ensure records and resources are maintained and monitor the content and quality of acts of Collective Worship.

Written –September 2013

Reviewed September 2016

To be reviewed – September 2019