

# Parkway Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



March 2022

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# **Collective Worship Policy**

## **Introduction**

The Collective Worship Policy at Parkway Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

The Collective Worship Policy of Parkway Primary School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

## **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

### **For the School:**

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Parkway Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

### **For the Pupils:**

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship God
- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

## **Cross Curricular Links**

Our Collective Worship gives us the chance to meet as a whole school family and to explore matters of faith, belief, values and ethos.

Once a week the assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that have been discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all people are valued and all achievements are recognised. We are a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children. At times, collective worship will enrich classwork through consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. To ensure collective worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social cultural development it will address a wide range of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide children with the opportunity to respond.

## **Planning**

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. Each week there is a theme for Collective worship based on SMSC or a celebratory theme chosen by an individual class that recognises the children's achievements and contributions.

The majority of acts of collective worship at our school are Christian in nature but we also share assemblies that reflect other religious faiths that are represented in the school and the wider community.

We plan termly rotas to include a range of themes, special occasions and events we follow, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Staff are expected to follow these themes when it is their turn to take assembly. Visiting speakers are given a copy of the themes.

We conduct our acts of worship as a whole school, in key stages and class assemblies. Participation by the children and adults is encouraged. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. All assemblies will have an element of the British Values, however these will be explicitly shared during each half term, but will be within all types of assemblies. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worships to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the children will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through daily collective worship and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a School Council. We also actively promote British Values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

Our children are provided with opportunities to deliver assemblies.

Children are asked to enter and leave the hall in a quiet, reflective manner. Teachers promote this behaviour before the children leave the classroom and hall and act as role models.

Inspirational music is played to assist in creating a reflective mood; the music is identified on a board in the hall.

Having taken part in worship, we encourage the children to reflect upon and respond to what they have experienced. Teachers reinforce the messages of the worship in other parts of the school day as appropriate.

## **The Management of Collective Worship**

The role of the RE coordinator will be to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

## **Right to withdraw**

At Parkway Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following in writing, permission for his/her child to be excused from attending religious worship. Those children withdrawn from acts of collective worship, parents are asked to provide suitable alternative reflective work. The school will provide a place where the pupils can think and prepare themselves for the day ahead. A member of staff will supervise pupils.

## **Methodology**

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship. This forms part of the assembly, which is usually the whole school, although sometimes there are separate KS1 and KS2 assemblies. Collective Worship follows this weekly timetable:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Led by</b>
<b>Monday</b>	SMSC	Head Teacher
<b>Tuesday</b>	SMSC	Senior Leadership Team/Class teachers
<b>Wednesday</b>	Class sharing assembly	Class teachers
<b>Thursday</b>	Music assembly	Music Lead Teacher/Outside agency
<b>Friday</b>	School achievement assembly	Head Teacher

Wellbeing is included during all collective worship opportunities, such positive welcoming, children's response, reflection time, celebration assemblies and rewards.

The content of the assembly is the responsibility of the person leading the assembly and it will be linked to the half-term theme as far as possible. They should have the opportunities for reflection and/or prayer.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children know that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. It is a special time and children and adults are expected to behave in an appropriate way.

Representatives from Christian and other faith communities will be invited to take part in our Collective Worship program.

## **Leadership**

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

## **The Act of Collective Worship**

Acts of Collective Worship at Parkway Primary School take into account the children's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds including the diverse tapestry of ethnicities, cultures and religions practices and beliefs.

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and/or prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

## **Review & Implementation Dates**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the Governor Policy Review cycle and will be discussed with school representatives prior to implementation.

Revision of the above Policy was completed by:

Donna Tume

Spring 2022

After consultation and agreement by Parkway Staff, this Policy was adopted by the School Governing Body and therefore implemented by the school.

Next Review by Curriculum Committee

Spring 2024

Signed ..... Head Teacher

Signed ..... Chair of Governors