

PARKLANDS INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approved by the Governing Body of Parklands Infant & Nursery School

Date: Tuesday 21st May 2024

Signed: _____

Mrs K Merriman (Chair of Governors)

Collective worship at Parklands Infant and Nursery School

'Collective Worship' is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together to engage in relevant, meaningful experiences, providing opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

At Parklands Infant and Nursery School, collective worship is set within the context of 'Assemblies' – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.

At Parklands, collective worship will be:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils

Aims and Purpose

During collective worship we aim to:

- Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian character and on our own beliefs.
- Allow a pause for reflection and stillness in the midst of the pressure of the school day.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together.
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community, as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation of readings, music, dance, drama or prayer.
- Celebrating the children's achievements out of school.
- Celebrating the children's achievements at school through our weekly 'Celebrating assembly'.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been **withdrawn by their parents**). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local authority for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

The School Community

Assemblies are non-denominational and conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community. Our assemblies contain aspects of other religions but are broadly Christian and always contain some elements which relate specifically to Christianity. Assemblies are regarded as a special time in the day and usually take place in the morning. They provide periods of calm reflection and are conducted accordingly. Children are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully and are asked to come in and leave assemblies in a quiet manner displaying 'our Parklands Person Ethos'.

Organisation of Collective worship at Parklands

At Parklands, collective worship is centred around our Parklands Person ethos. Each half term there is a clear focus in relation to this (safe, kind, positive, polite, important or respectful). Our assembly overview provides further details of this and is available below.

Collective worship involves all children coming together and participating in an assembly each day. Sometimes this may be done as separate classes or key stages. The time of the assembly may vary but it usually takes place in the morning. To focus attention, the teacher is usually sat at the front and a candle may be lit, a picture or image displayed, a poem or a story read.

Prayer

Reading a prayer can be appropriate as long as the integrity of all the children present is respected. Prayer may be part of reflection and stillness with children invited to participate in prayer if they wish.

Every effort is shown to be sensitive towards personal faiths and to include all pupils in collective worship. For example, when using a prayer from a particular faith, this will be introduced with sensitivity and children will be given the option to say 'Amen' if they do not believe.

Singing

The act of singing can be a very positive experience for many children and can provide great opportunities for celebration or reflection. The selection of songs will respect the integrity of all of the children present.

In order to comply with the law, singing assemblies will include an opportunity for pupils to reflect on some of the words they are singing and to respond through a moment of quietness or prayer in a quiet atmosphere. The children are very lucky as they have Mrs Fulcher to provide the music by playing the piano.

Collective worship weekly timetable

Assemblies are normally conducted by Mrs Callaghan (Headteacher), Miss Whittingham (deputy head), Mrs Bargrove (RE lead) or other members of staff. Sometimes we have visitors in school such as the vicar from St. John's church.

At Parklands, collective worship generally takes the following forms:

- Monday – celebration assembly
- Tuesday – discussion of a key question or theme
- Wednesday – stories from the Bible, prayers, singing (Mrs Bargrove or Rev. Sam from St. Johns Church)
- Thursday – discussion of a key question or theme
- Friday – celebration of out of school achievements, attendance review

The content of the assemblies may also reflect any of the following:

- Marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect a diversity of faiths.
- Examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings
- Stories supporting themes from a range of sources and cultures
- Response to local, national and international events
- Providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs.
- Putting things into practice e.g. supporting charities
- Providing a moment for silent reflection/prayer
- Celebrations of successes of members of the school community.
- Performances of presentations from the school community.
- Input from visiting speakers.

Celebrating achievements

Assemblies may also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We have weekly celebration assemblies where the children and teachers celebrate the children's achievements in school. The children also have a weekly assembly to celebrate achievements out of school and we encourage children to bring in any certificates/ trophies they have earned at out of school clubs. These assemblies provide opportunities to reward the children for their achievements in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, that all children at Parklands and their achievements are valued.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

We expect all children to attend assemblies. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school can 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 restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Parklands Infant & Nursery School will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.