

Oatlands Junior School Collective Worship Policy



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Oatlands Junior School is a community school, in North Yorkshire, catering for children aged from 7 to 11.

This Collective Worship Policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's SCARE. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', daily collective worship at Oatlands Junior School will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion, or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

Definition of Collective Worship

As a community school, Collective Worship is an important part of the school day. It gives pupils, staff and any visitors the opportunity to come together for 15 minutes each day as a whole school or in small groups for a period of thought and reflection. It offers opportunities for the spiritual, moral, social and culture development of the pupils.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the school:

Collective Worship should contribute to the ethos of the school by;

- Reaffirming and practising the values of the school community
- Celebrating achievements within the school, local and international community
- Celebrating occasions of significance, including festivals
- Developing a community spirit.

For the pupils:

Collective Worship should contribute to the development of the 'whole' child by;

- Enriching their spiritual, social, moral and cultural development
- Providing the opportunity to worship God and respond to the Christian language and symbolism
- Allowing them to explore their own beliefs, values and commitments and compare them with others
- Providing a foundation for an understanding of the nature of worship
- Fostering a concern for the needs of others
- Encouraging voluntary responses with opportunities to express their feelings
- Considering own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

The contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the curriculum

Collective Worship is distinct from curriculum time. At Oatlands Junior School, however, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, enhancing the experiences of pupils by reflecting or introducing the work done in classes. The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments is in line with school policy which informs our practise. To ensure this,

Collective Worship will include a variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level. *(See Appendix 1 for the calendar of themes for the school year.)*

Organisation of Collective Worship

The RE coordinator will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship. A termly calendar will be displayed in the staff room with the weekly theme and identified member of staff leading the Thursday assembly. This will be displayed in advance to allow staff to plan and prepare accordingly. Every member of teaching staff, and occasionally visitors, will lead an act of worship to the whole school at some point in the school year.

The school provides a daily act of worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Monday – Whole School Assembly, covering a variety of themes as identified in the collective worship calendar (*appendix 1*).

Tuesday – In class worship, incorporating the RE learning at a time that suites the individual class teacher. This can include: discussion, prayer, singing/worship and story.

Wednesday – Whole School Singing Assembly, led by the music coordinator.

Thursday – Whole School Assembly, led by an identified member of teaching staff. This will cover a variety of themes as identified in the collective worship calendar, which can be approached from the member of staff's own perspective. This can also be led by a visitor, which is organised by the RE coordinator.

Friday – Whole School Celebration Assembly. This is led by the Head Teacher or other identified member of staff and celebrates the achievements of pupils in school and outside of school.

The Act of Collective Worship

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 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.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education and/or collective worship. It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case the alternative arrangements will be made on an

individual basis following a discussion with the Head Teacher and parents. This can include silent reading or Times Table Rockstars practise, under the supervision of a member of staff.

Links to other policies

- RE Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

Appendices

Collective Worship Themes

Autumn Term

OJS Values	Remembrance
New Beginnings	Friendship
Learning	Responsibility
Respect	Perseverance
Kindness	Human Rights
One World, Many Faiths	Different Faiths and Beliefs
Harvest	Christmas
Working Together	

Spring Term

New Year, Fresh Start	Fair trade
Going for goals	Science and Inventions
Learning from other faiths	Having fun/laughter
Making mistakes	Team work
Love	Forgiveness
Being unique/different	Easter

Summer Term

Differences and diversity	Families and People who care about us
Rule of Law	Stranger danger/keeping safe
Gifts and Talents	In the news...
Recycling	Inspirational sports men and women
One World	Journeys
Choice and Decision	Moving on

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