

Collective Worship Policy

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Responsibility for this policy lies with (Headteacher, Full Governing Body, Curriculum Committee or Finance & Resources Committee)	Full Governing Body
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Contents	
Page 1	Our Aims for Collective Worship
Page 1	Values and Vision
Page 2	Equal Opportunities
Page 2	Prayer / Reflection
Page 2	Health and Safety
Page 2	Planning
Page 3	Organisation of Collective Worship
Page 3	Format of Assemblies
Page 4	Resources
Page 4	Right of Withdrawal
Page 4	Monitoring and Review
Page 4	Success Criteria

Our Aims for Collective Worship

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of Collective Worship within Edward Pauling Primary School. Collective Worship is defined at school as a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, moral issues, traditions and customs and interests. This may include learning about interesting cultural traditions and their meaning, listening to stories with a moral message and reflecting on themes. Collective Worship is about the school's duty to develop pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally and is about the growth of the person, their character and social outlook, whatever their academic aptitudes.

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage children to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- We reflect on our place in the world and how to keep ourselves and our peers safe in different situations.

At Edward Pauling Primary School, we apply for a Determination which allows us to have Collective Worship which reflects not only the Christian faith, but also the faiths and traditions of our wider school community. A Determination must be applied for via the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) that operates in Hounslow and renewed every five years.

Values and Vision

We believe that Collective Worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life.

Through our Collective Worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

We think it is very important to develop a strong set of values and principles, and that children are able to question and understand what it means to grow up in British society. We explore British Values through a rich, engaging and challenging curriculum, and through a focus on significant individuals who have made significant contributions to British and World History we invite pupils to reflect upon their role in a diverse, multicultural and multi faith society.

Equal Opportunities

At Edward Pauling Primary School we aim to work in partnership with parents, carers and the community and provide a safe, secure and happy learning environment for all. In Collective Worship we do this by ensuring that:

- All children participate through class assemblies
- We, as adults, are the role models for the children in how we conduct ourselves during worship
- In a multi-faith society we have a clear duty to inform, explore and seek to avoid gratuitous offence of anyone or anyone's beliefs
- In a multi-faith society we promote racial equality

The act of worship will:

- Be without imposition and allow for freedom of own belief
- Show that diversity within each faith is recognised
- Use resources which reflect the range of different faiths and communities

Prayer / Reflection

We feel that prayer or reflection is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, children should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe so we use various forms of introductions to our reflections which enables all children to participate, for example:

-And now a moment of stillness, whilst observing an image or candle
- listen to a particular piece of music
- Listen to the words of a well-known poem, prayer or reading. In this way we are able to use prayers and readings from different faiths and traditions

Health and Safety

Health and Safety issues mainly centre on the use of candles and matches. Every care should be taken to ensure their safe use and the safety of children. Matches are kept in the Headteacher's or Deputy Headteacher's offices.

Planning

Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate children's achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is that all children are valued and a full range of achievements is recognised. The school has a half termly programme of themes for assemblies and collective worship, these take place as a whole school or in classes, and are linked to the school values which support our school aims and to the themes that children are learning where possible.

We draw themes from issues of global importance, upon parts of the school curriculum, festivals or events of significance for different faiths. Assemblies are led by senior staff, class teachers and class assemblies are led by the children.

Creating the right atmosphere is critical to the quality of the worship. Collective Worship is seen as 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, to listen and to participate in stories, songs and thinking time. We may create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or film at the beginning and end of whole school assemblies.

Organisation of Collective Worship

At Edward Pauling Primary School, we have organised the act of Collective Worship as follows:

Week Day	Collective Act of Worship	Person Responsible	Focus
Monday	Whole School	SLT Member	Introduction of Assembly Theme (Related to: identified Theme, School Value, Role Model or British Values) Festival Assembly Attendance and Punctuality
Tuesday	Class based	Class Teacher/ RE lead	Safe and Sound assembly created by DSL Or Religious festival assembly coordinated by the RE lead.
Wednesday	Class based	Class Teacher	Assembly Theme
Thursday	Singing Assembly	SLT Member	Singing Assembly (Related to Assembly Theme, Curriculum Area, School Value or British Value)
Friday	Whole School	SLT Member	Appreciation Assembly Celebrating Achievement or Good Work

Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate children's achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is that all children are valued and a full range of achievements is recognised.

Class assemblies provide children with the opportunity to reflect on the themes raised in assemblies and on any issues that might occur. The precise details of timings and length of Collective Worship may vary from class to class.

Once a year each class has a "Class Assembly" to which parents, carers and governors are invited, giving them the opportunity to share celebrations, our values and the children's achievements. These Assemblies are linked to the children's learning.

Format of Assemblies

Music or film clips may be played at the beginning and ends of assemblies to encourage the children to listen and become calm and reflective. (Year Six to provide mentors to assist in setting up chairs etc)

- Children enter the hall in a calm and quiet manner and they are expected to listen or watch while waiting for everyone to arrive
- Children are expected to sit and quietly listen during the assembly and collective worship
- It is the responsibility of the staff in attendance at the assembly to ensure that the children behave appropriately
- The assembly may include discussion and a story related to the theme and may also include the children in active participation

- The act of collective worship may be identified in a range of ways including the lighting of a candle, the playing of a piece of music, a period of silence or reflection, singing, dancing or the reading of a poem or prayer
- Class teachers must ensure appropriate arrangements are made for children in their class who are withdrawn from collective worship

Resources

The school has a wide range of resources for collective worship, which are reviewed regularly. Children and staff themselves have a wealth of experiences to share. In using artefacts, Staff must be aware of the significance of artefacts and they must ensure that they must be handled in a reverent way. The RE co-ordinator will advise on any particular actions that must be observed.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending collective 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 1968 Education Reform Act. Teachers are required to attend assemblies as part of their conditions of service. Any staff member wishing to withdraw for collective worship must discuss the matter with the Head teacher.

If a parent has a complaint about Collective Worship then a meeting is held with the Head Teacher. If the matter cannot be resolved then it is sent to the Chair of Governors. Where agreement is still not reached, then the parent can take the matter to the Local Authority. This is in line with the school's general Complaints Procedure.

Monitoring and Review

The school will review the policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. Revision to assembly themes, formats and acts of collective worship will be evaluated at least annually through staff and leadership meetings. Any revisions to its organisation or content will then be agreed and implemented in the new academic year.

Class based collective worship will be monitored through discussions in staff meetings with staff working together to ensure consistency and quality.

Success Criteria

We will evaluate our practice and policy through the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of the children to the content of assemblies and collective acts of worship
- The growth of respect, tolerance and understanding within the school community
- Positive response to shared experiences through pupil voice and discussions
- Reaction of the children
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- Enrichment of children's experiences

An application for a Determination will be made in June 2026, this will be reviewed every five years.