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Statutory	HT /Curriculum Committee	Curriculum Committee	01/03/17	March 2020

## **FAIRFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Policy & Guidelines for Collective Worship**

#### **Purpose**

The daily act of worship at Fairfields Primary School follows the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. The purpose of this act of worship is to make it a special time of togetherness for reflection, for response and for developing a sense of reverence which is separate from the ordinary school activities.

#### **Aims**

- To provide opportunities for the whole school community to come together
- To develop a sense of community, of unity and of belonging
- To explore, to share beliefs and to appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- To consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs in the pupils own lives
- To promote spiritual and moral development within the framework of the law
- To reflect upon common values, to celebrate the various achievements of members of the community and to recollect
- To respond through silent thoughts or active involvement
- To recognise, to interpret and to put into practice the values of the school
- To think about the needs of others
- To encourage pupils to be open, honest, caring and thoughtful
- To offer opportunities for moral and spiritual development
- To come together to enhance the ethos of the school

The daily collective worship can take place at any time during the day and can be in whatever grouping that the school wishes

The law requires that daily Acts of Worship are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. They must have regard of the pupil's ages, aptitude and family backgrounds.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship. Parental request for withdrawal must be in the form of a letter and discussion with the head teacher.

The whole school Acts of Worship are led by the head teacher, the deputy Headteacher or a designated member of staff. These may sometimes involve participation by the children. Classroom Worship is led by the class teachers and the year group Acts of Worship are led by the year team and may involve participation by the children.

During Acts of Worship the following may be used:

Song  
Music  
Poetry

Drama  
Art  
Story  
Artefacts  
Visitors

### **The Character of Collective Worship**

As stated in the policy statement and in line with Hampshire's guidelines, Collective Acts of Worship provide opportunities to **reflect, respond** and **revere**.

There should be a time which is respected by all present and enables the pupils and staff to **reflect** on a particular issue.

Worship demands a level of involvement and opportunities should be given for pupils and staff to **respond** in some way. Responses may be expressed through silent thoughts or by movement or dance or by silence.

### **Organisation**

At Fairfields Primary School there are five Collective Acts of Worship during the week.

Assemblies during the week are in groups including:

- Whole school assembly on a Monday,
- House assemblies on a Tuesday
- Class assemblies on a Wednesday
- Singing assemblies on a Thursday
- Presentation/ celebration/ Super Citizens assemblies on a Friday

*For specific times refer to the school/ class timetables.*

Presentation Assembly is designed with several purposes in mind.

- Each class in the school has an opportunity to reflect on some of the learning that has taken place in the classroom and present their efforts to the rest of the school.
- Parents of the class are invited to see for themselves the work that has been going on.
- This does not need to be a mammoth production, you still only have 20 minutes!

Celebration Assembly

- Children who have achieved much should be mentioned in this assembly.
- These can be focused on a particular school development priority and may result in children sharing their work.

Super Citizens Assembly

- Once a month we celebrate Super Citizens who are children who have been nominated due to them reflecting the Core Values in the school.

### **The Delivery of Classroom/Year Group Collective Worship**

Planning is provided by the Headteacher based on a theme for each week. Each assembly builds on the last and may include our Core Values or an element of Jigsaw.

A variety of groupings allows for a variety of styles and atmosphere. Collective Worship with the whole school may have more formality and a focus on an affirmation of the school as a community. Classroom Collective Worship provides a more relaxed and intimate environment.

**When planning Classroom Collective Worship, consider:**

- How the classroom will be arranged to mark the 'special' nature of the occasion e.g. circle of chairs, on the carpet
- How the 'special' time will be marked e.g. lighting a candle, ringing a bell
- How to create an opportunity for reflection and response e.g. passing round an object, playing music, reading a poem

**The Value of Classroom Collective Worship**

- Children are more likely to offer their deeper personal and private thoughts and feelings in a secure and supportive atmosphere
- Meaningful and direct links can be forged to the children's work in the curriculum
- Teachers, who might feel insecure leading a whole school assembly, can have the opportunity to develop their skills on a more secure context
- The more intimate setting of the classroom offers greater opportunities for the spiritual development of children