

Laurence Jackson School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Statutory Duty of Schools The Collective Worship Policy at Laurence Jackson School School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE.

Collective Worship is legally required to take place every school day and 'shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' (1988 Education Act).

It is generally accepted that Collective Worship should provide pupils with space for reflection and/or should be evocative and challenging. (<http://www.collectiveworship.com/>)

The head teacher 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 Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

The Collective Worship Policy of Laurence Jackson School School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship

Worship is generally understood to imply the recognition of a supreme being. It should be clear that the words used and/or the activities observed in worship recognise the existence of a deity. (Ofsted Criteria for acts 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 Laurence Jackson School school and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- 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 (worship that which is considered worthy)
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- respond to the worship offered.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Laurence Jackson School School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Worship Co-ordinator, headteacher, deputy head and representatives of each year group form the Worship Team.

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

Schools may wish to include a 'job description' for the Collective Worship co-ordinator/team in an appendix to their Collective Worship policy. See Section 3 of this document

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, or one of the multi purpose rooms, or the classroom.

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

(A description of the variety of groupings may also be included here or in an appendix.)

Leadership

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. (*The appendix might include details such as a weekly leadership pattern*)

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets (*Included in the appendix*) list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets (*Included in the appendix*), these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance (*Included in the appendix*) on acts of Collective Worship at----- School. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.

(*See section 4 of this document for 'Visitor Guidance'*)

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 (*included in the appendix*). Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

Collective worship is also an important vehicle for pupils to explore and share beliefs, consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence, the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives, think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual.

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. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc)

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

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

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Policies referred to

1. Collective worship policy - <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/c/collectiveworshippolicy/>
2. Collective Worship In Wales - (<http://www.collectiveworship.com/>)
3. Ofsted Criteria for acts of Collective Worship. Ofsted Framework 1999

Adopted: February 2009

Review: Spring 2014