



Collective Worship Policy

Berkeley Primary School

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Aims and objectives

At Berkeley Primary School worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. We recognise that collective worship is an important time to provide opportunities for our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

It is our aim at Berkeley Primary that worship should:

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God, to experience stillness, quiet and a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection
- to help children to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation, seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide children with variety in their experience of worship. Acts of worship may take the form of a key stage act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for children in different classes. Collective worship may be held at any time during the school day.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Berkeley Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community. However, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with key members of staff, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from acts of collective worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All staff, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of collective worship, but the Headteacher maintains statutory accountability for acts of collective worship in Berkeley Primary School. This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.



School Organisation

The school recognises that there is a difference between acts of collective worship and assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may precede or follow an act of collective worship. When this happens the transition from assembly to act of worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. changing the lighting, reflecting an image on the screen, playing of music, moment of silences and reflection, a focus table, etc. The act of worship may be in many forms, e.g. a prayer, a reflection, a hymn, thoughtful time.

Different members of our school community may lead the worship, including; teachers, children, local church members, parents.

Planning

The content and methodology of collective worship should be varied and well planned for. Each term there are themes for collective worship, which are recorded on the long term plan for the year. The long term plan takes into consideration key festivals throughout the year.

Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean by the end of the week the children will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively, class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur in the school during the week.

Resources and accommodation

Themes for collective worship are emailed out termly. We house a selection of books containing stories for collective worship belonging to North Lincolnshire Council. These can be found in the RE book cupboard in the infant building and there is also a selection in the leadership office.

Useful ideas for stories and activities linked to a wide variety of festivals and themes can be found on various websites, including www.assemblies.org.uk.