

Locks Heath Infant School

Policy for Collective Worship



Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to think deeply about core values, common concerns and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Principles

As a school we follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act, as interpreted and adopted by Hampshire Local Education Authority.

Collective worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled. Collective worship at Locks Heath Infant School underpins all aspects of school life including: our ethos and learning values (Never Giving Up, Everyone Caring, Seeking to Find Out and Working Together), SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development and including British Values), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and all aspects of citizenship.

Collective worship will be mainly of a broadly Christian character reflecting the broad values and traditions of Christian belief. Therefore, some assemblies during the school year will include stories from the bible, (including stories with a Christian moral message), information about Christian practice and celebrations of Christian festivals.

The themes explored will be appropriate to pupils whatever their background or personal beliefs, whether Christian or otherwise. Collective worship is open to all staff and pupils and no assumptions are made about their personal beliefs. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from part or all of collective worship may do so by informing the class teacher.

Aims

To develop:

- social and moral values
- knowledge and understanding of what it means to be British
- spiritual awareness
- knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship
- awareness of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship

To provide a space in time which:

- allows a pause for reflection and stillness
- provides a rhythm to the life of the school by marking and celebrating special occasions and achievements
- facilitates the development of a sense of community, belonging and sharing
- encourages pupils to learn how to be part of large and small gatherings, as well as offering opportunities to discuss, debate, share ideas, perform and respond to others
- allows for celebration and reflection on things held to be of worth.

Legal Requirement

All schools should provide collective worship for all pupils, every day.

Collective worship Timetable

A collective worship half-termly overview outlines themes for assemblies and details links with our Learning Value, SMSC area in focus and to Jigsaw (PSHE scheme). It also details any special assemblies and visitors to assembly.

Day	Led by	Focus
Monday 10.35	Headteacher/Assistant Head	Theme connected to the Learning Value and SMSC in focus for the Half Term. (See plan)
Tuesday 10.35	Headteacher/Assistant Head	
Wednesday 10.35	Class Teacher	Singing Assembly- continuing the link with Learning values and SMSC
Thursday	Class Teacher (on rotation)	Year Group Celebration Assembly
Friday	Class teacher in class	Continuing the theme from the week

In Early Years, Collective Worship will take place in the classroom each day. There will be a weekly collective worship for the whole Early Years group in the music room when it is felt the children are ready.

A collective act of worship will provide opportunities to:

- encourage reflection of a learning value / area of SMSC development
- focus on a particular theme by providing a stimulus (a story, something visual, a scenario acted out)
- respond in a variety of ways such as
 - discussing with a friend
 - answering questions/sharing ideas
 - experiencing stillness in reflection time
 - singing together
- develop a sense of reverence. We aim to achieve this over a period of time through the recognition, affirmation and celebration of the worthiness of those values held to be important to our community.

Themes for collective worship are organised across the year and may relate to school, national and international events. A variety of methods of presentation will be used to help stimulate and maintain the children's interest in collective worship e.g.

Stories
Poems
Artefacts
Music
Pictures
Interactive whiteboard power points
Discussion
Visiting speakers
Games

Children who are withdrawn from collective worship at their parents' request will have an agreed alternative arrangement.

Date: Autumn 1 2024
Review due: Autumn 1 2027