

Oakwood Primary Academy Collective Worship Policy



Changes

Version 4

Policy implemented: February 2008

Policy Reviewed: November 2014, February 2018, March 2018

Next review: March 2020

Oakwood Primary Academy

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered children. This provision applies to all children registered at a maintained school who are of statutory school age. Daily collective worship is not required in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). In accordance with the Act, Oakwood Primary Academy provides daily collective worship for all statutory school age children. This policy should be read in conjunction with the RE Policy and the PHSE including British Values Policy.

What is collective worship?

The DfE published non-statutory guidance on collective worship in 1994. This guidance remains current. It explains in paragraphs 60 and 61 that collective worship in schools without a designated religious character will be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature" and should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Our collective worship programme aims to involve all children regardless of their religious values or cultural background whilst reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief. There are occasions when denominations and other faiths are the focus during collective worship e.g. festivals, holy days, theme of the week, etc. However, in the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, the majority of acts of worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Attempts to persuade participants to adopt a particular religious belief will not be permitted.

All assemblies and acts of collective worship within our school are based on the principles that they should be:

- Inclusive
- Educational
- Spiritual or moral

Where can collective worship take place?

Daily collective worship will take place either in a formal assembly or a classroom setting. It can be a single class, a year group, a Key Stage (KS) or the whole school.

Who can withdraw from collective worship?

Parents can request that their child be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship (paragraphs 83-87 of the DfE's guidance on collective worship). To avoid misunderstandings it is helpful to establish with any parent wanting to exercise this right:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship and, if so, how much.

The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by a parent from collective worship (paragraph 84). At Oakwood Primary Academy alternative arrangements are made for children who are withdrawn from collective worship. All children will be provided with an appropriate class activity and will be supervised by members of staff (on a rota basis) in the key stage work areas whilst the rest of the class takes part in collective worship. Staff can also request to withdraw from collective worship.

What is the intention of collective worship at Oakwood Primary Academy?

- To contribute to a sense of unity, community and group identity for the school as a whole and as part of the Discovery Multi Academy Trust.
- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

- To enable children to gain insights into the beliefs of others and the ways in which people express themselves within their faith and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding.
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves.
- To develop and deepen a child's emotional response, self-worth and value of others.

Oakwood Primary Academy adopts the following principles of assembly and collective worship :

Collective worship should be inclusive:

- Child centred, related to their own experience and concerns.
- Encourage a sense of personal and social responsibility.
- Foster a sense of community and acknowledge diversity.

Collective worship should be educational:

- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect upon the education it provides or celebrate educational achievements.
- Relate to other curriculum activities when appropriate.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to perform in front of an audience.

Collective worship should be spiritual or moral:

- They should provide opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual, moral, cultural or social opportunities.
- Provide a special time to be still and reflect so that children should feel calm, relaxed and secure.
- Foster a sense of wonder and awe.

Planning

Acts of collective worship will be planned to explore a variety of themes designed to promote spiritual, cultural, moral and social development. These themes include examples from other cultures, which may be linked to

- Religious events or festivals.
- Special events in the life of the school.
- Topics being undertaken.
- Celebration and thanks.

The themes planned will enable the children to reflect on matters of importance and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music, hymns, drama, role-play, the visual arts, reflection, prayer and discussion.

At Oakwood Primary Academy the organisation for Collective Worship includes a Virtue Assembly, an 'Open the Book' assembly led by two local Christian Church groups, a thought for the day class based reflection, a singing assembly and a celebration or class assembly.

Parents, LAB Members and members of the local community are invited at regular intervals each term to assemblies and occasionally visiting speakers will also be invited.

Information will be available through the school newsletter, website and text messaging service to keep parents and LAB Members informed of details and timings of collective worship and assembly dates.

The named person responsible for Collective Worship at Oakwood Primary Academy is:

Mrs. Jackie Sparrow – Head of School.