



Copnor Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Governing Body approval gained in January 2024

Next review January 2025

Policy proposed for adoption by Matt Johnson, Headteacher

Headteacher's signature:

Chair of Committee signature:

Rationale

The school's collective worship programme is a key part of school life. There is a daily act of collective worship which is used to encourage reflection and to promote a balance of spiritual, moral, social and cultural values. We ensure that we operate within the governor's guide to the law and keep this worship of a broadly Christian character. We purposely keep this broad as 46% of our families are non - Christian.

Aims

- To explore and share spiritual and cultural beliefs and come to an appreciation of their importance to different groups
- To consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence
To consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives; think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community.
- To re-affirm, interpret and put into practice social and moral values
- To celebrate the various achievements of the members of the community that are held to be of worth.

Provision

At Copnor Primary School, we provide a daily act of collective worship through whole school assembly, year group assembly, class assembly, circle time and singing practice. This arrangement provides a variety of settings for the pupils, creating a sense of community in whole school meetings, but offering more intimate experiences in classroom collective worship. In every case, including singing assembly, a time for reflection is provided.

A theme is chosen for each week. It is given either a spiritual, moral, social or cultural focus and this theme then extends through all daily acts for that week. It also extends into "Golden Child", where the children are asked to put the focus into practice in their daily work.

A wide range of experiences provided for the children ensure an interest is maintained and that the assembly theme is communicated in a clear and memorable way. These experiences include:

- A range of visitors;
- Artefacts and pictures;
- Pupils' role playing, acting or demonstrating;
- Use of video clips or websites;
- Stories told with the aid of illustrations/acting;
- Use of an interactive whiteboard;
- PowerPoint presentations;
- Music: live and recorded.

A quiet, calm atmosphere is provided through music or sound effects. Furthermore, the disciplined leading in and out of the assembly area is insisted upon for all year groups. As often as possible, links are made to other areas of school life, contributing to PSHE, citizenship, British Values and RE.

A focus board showing the theme of the week (via the Golden Child focus) is clearly visible in each of the assembly halls. A copy of the this theme is also on display in each classroom.

All pupils are comfortable when in the hall and can see and hear what is going on.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from parts or all of collective worship. Parents are not legally required to say why they wish to withdraw their children or to inform the school in writing, although as a school we do ask for a written reason. Where this is not provided, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will discuss the withdrawal from collective worship with the parent/carer and will record any reason (if one is provided) on CPOMs as this will provide a permanent record of the parent/carer's decision. A parent/carer can also decide to allow their child to opt back into collective worship.

A child can be withdrawn from all of the collective worship or from part of it. As an example, some families may not wish for their child to participate in collective worship where there is reference to Halloween (even though the links to All Hallow's Eve are discussed) but are happy for their child to participate in all other areas of collective worship.

Copnor Primary School has the responsibility to ensure that the children withdrawn are safe and supervised. The school is not required to provide alternative collective worship, but parents may provide an alternative if they wish. Parents can take their children off the school premises for alternative worship as long as it does not interfere with the child's education provision. Where the child is not provided with an alternative form of worship or they are not removed from school during collective worship, then the child will be asked to read a book in a safe space away from the collective worship within the office area of the school unless there are staff from the child's year team able to supervise. If in the office, the child will be supervised by an adult from the school office.