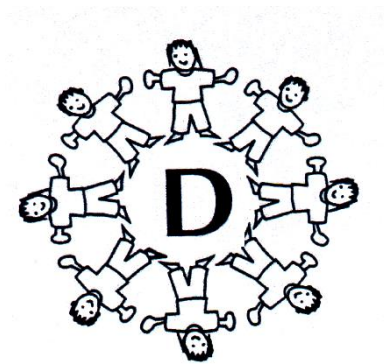


Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School



Collective Worship Policy May 2024

Introduction

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, these acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

The community within Dalestorth Primary School is predominantly of the Christian Faith and the second largest group would be those of no religion. In addition, there are children and families who follow the Islam, Hindu and Sikh faiths.

We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert children. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive and respectful to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

At Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School collective worship is broadly Christian but is distinct from corporate worship within a group. The school has due regard to the Nottinghamshire County Council syllabus on RE and Collective Worship and Nottinghamshire County Council SACRE guidance on collective worship in planning the opportunities and experiences we offer children. Collective worship encompasses all faith groups providing opportunities to celebrate and reflect on all major religious festivals and holy days.

The purpose of Collective Worship

Nottinghamshire County Council say that collective worship is:

- an educational activity which is inclusive, involving pupils of any faith and none, as a school is a community of people holding different beliefs.
- different from corporate worship, which is the shared experience of people belonging to a particular faith or denomination.

By providing good quality collective worship, a school can build an inclusive ethos around shared purposes and values, which contributes significantly to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of each child.

Our main aims at Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School of collective worship are as follows:

- to contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole and develop the awareness of British Values through our own school values
- to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- to understand what is important in life

Collective Worship should:

- provide opportunities for pupils and staff to reflect on what it is important in life
- enable children to explore a range of beliefs and provide an insight into values that allow them to reflect upon others behaviour to develop their spiritual awareness
- celebrate together and share common values

- develop a reflective approach to living and thinking deeply
- teach the principles of right and wrong and apply these to current personal, school and external matters
- educate children about taking responsibility and positive relationships not only in school but also within the community
- encourage children to participate within the community and develop an understanding of citizenship
- teach children to value their own cultural traditions and the diversity and richness of other cultures
- provide children with the opportunity to worship God and understand the nature and purpose of worship.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective worship in school, which forms part of each assembly. It is a time when the whole school or groups within school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests.

Themes for assemblies are planned and published at the beginning of each school term. Assemblies mainly reflect the values, festivals and traditions of the Christian faith but also include those of other faiths and cultures.

Some of the assembly themes covered:

- make links to whole school initiatives as online safety and anti-bullying
- how we can represent our 5 Busy Bee values in our lives
- remembering and celebrations days of National Importance such as Remembrance days, Royal events and historical events
- festivals such as Christmas, harvest, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Eid al Adha, Easter
- friendship – working as a team, helping, kindness, and conflict
- making good and bad choices – characteristics such as loyalty and calmness
- looking after yourself – exercise, well-being, sleep.

All assemblies are based on the principles that they should be inclusive, educational and spiritual. To ensure these principles are met we:

- acknowledge diversity and representatives of different faiths are invited to participate
- foster a sense of community
- celebrate children's achievements and allow these to be showcased
- involve children as active participants
- are relevant to children's concerns and own experiences
- age appropriate and meet the children's needs

- provide a time to be still and reflect
- a calm time which is conducive to worship
- well planned and are learning experiences where children can explore their own beliefs along with others
- reinforce positive values and attitudes
- uphold the aims and values of the school
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- include sacred and secular stories/readings
- incorporate dance, drama, music and various media
- provide opportunity to worship God.
- Include visits from people outside of our school to share experiences and knowledge

Note: There is no specification about what worship should include. During collective worship pupils will be offered opportunities for reflection and this may also involve prayer. When prayers are used children are invited to take part but it is their choice to do so.

The head teacher and members of the teaching staff conduct the assemblies each week. Visitors are also welcomed to lead assemblies. Assemblies are currently conducted at 10.30am to 10.50am each day and involve the whole school; a longer assembly is planned on a Friday to praise and celebrate children's achievements.

Other Links

Dalestorth Primary School has links with the New Cross church, Skegby Methodist church, St Andrew's church along with the wider community. Many members of the community including parents and children's family members have also been to talk to the children and organised visits to their place of worship.

Christmas Carol and Harvest Festival services are held within school and the children enjoy rehearsing the songs chosen. When Harvest is celebrated within school parents kindly make food donations which are then given to the local food bank charity and to the homeless in Mansfield.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship, staff equally have the right to withdraw from collective worship. Arrangements would be made for children who have been withdrawn from collective worship. All children would be provided with appropriate class work and supervised on a rota basis.

Policy review

This policy is to be reviewed two years.

Policy written by L Radford and amended by J Hill – May 2024

Policy adopted: September 2019

Policy reviewed: April 2022 and May 2024

Policy due to reviewed: April 2026