



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**QUEEN BOUDICA
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Collective Worship Policy

At Queen Boudica Primary School, collective worship is set within the context of assemblies, which may include other features besides those required of collective worship. The school complies with the requirements set out in the 'Education Reform Act (1988). Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth. Worship will be of a wholly or broadly of a Christian nature, although on some occasions it will feature themes and elements from other faiths and traditions other than Christianity.

Aims and Purpose

During collective worship we aim to:

- Provide an inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development eg. children having the opportunity to contemplate the spiritual dimension of their life through music, images and words
- Provide an atmosphere of private quiet contemplation and ensure everyone feels valued and safe
- Provide a valuable learning experience
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community
- Recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and religions which exist in our multi-cultural society
- Develop in all of our pupils a: *sense of beauty; sense of wonder and awe; feeling of pride; sense of pity; sense of smallness in the face of greatness; sense of grandness in the face of smallness; feeling of shared sadness at times of loss or grief; sense of peace and a sense of belonging*

The School Community

Our school community is made up of people from different religions and cultures.

Assemblies are non-denominational and conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community. We are proud of the diversity of our school community and as such hold assemblies that reflect and celebrate the traditions of the main religions, particularly those that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Assemblies are regarded as a special time of the day (a time of calm reflection) and are conducted accordingly. Children are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully and are asked to come into and leave assemblies without talking. Also, children will develop skills and learn how to behave in a large social gathering.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly every day, usually in the morning. These assemblies normally involve all of the pupils in the school and will normally be whole school assemblies or separate key stage assemblies, with their times varying accordingly.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding achievement assemblies and class assemblies, during which children can show their work and successes to others, and can raise issues that they have discussed in their classes. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued. There is a Celebration Assembly every Friday and parents are invited to attend on occasions.

Assemblies are normally conducted by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or other members of staff, and are sometimes led by visitors to the school.

Assemblies are planned every term on a thematic basis, with each theme usually, but not exclusively, lasting for two or three weeks. Themes are very broad to allow for flexibility and variety of delivery. Themes may be linked to the curriculum, particularly those for PSHCE and RE. We encourage active participation by pupils. On occasions of a significant news item or an important and unexpected event shared by members of the School, we may divert from our planned themes.

The member of staff leading the assembly will complete the 'Collective Worship Record'.

Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example, when using a prayer from a particular faith, this is introduced with sensitivity and pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers which they do not believe. A prayer may be introduced like this: *I am going to read a Christian (Hindu, Buddhist.....) prayer. I would like you to think carefully about the words. Some of you might wish to make the words your own (Christians might do this by saying 'Amen').*

There may be parts of an assembly, for example when a Christian hymn is sung, in which a pupil does not wish to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to 'withdraw' from a part of the assembly by 'not participating'.

A parent or carer may make a request for their child/ren to be wholly or partly excused from attendance at collective worship at school, when the themes or content are linked to a particular religion or tradition's practice/beliefs eg. prayers/hymns/stories. Where parents or carers exercise the right of withdrawal for their child/ren they should notify the Headteacher of this request in writing. This information is conveyed in the school prospectus.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of collective worship in the school. The Headteacher will report on the effectiveness of this policy and the impact of collective worship on learners through the termly Headteacher report to the Governing Body.