

Great Sankey Primary School

Collective Worship Policy.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in a collective act of worship each day. 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 school must provide an act of collective worship for all children every day. The act of collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class unit.

Definition of Collective worship. .

A school community is not a worshipping community and the law recognises this by requiring “collective” not “corporate” worship. Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worth-ship

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

Aims of Collective Worship.

Collective worship is an important part of school life, its aims are to:-

- Come together as a large group to think about the needs of others and to develop respect for the views and ideas of others.
- Develop an understanding of aspects of religious and spiritual beliefs.
- Explore and share beliefs, consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence.
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder for the world in which they live
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Develop an understanding of moral, social and cultural issues and diversity
- Celebrate each other's achievements.

- Mark and celebrate special occasions.
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community

Great Sankey Primary School seeks to provide a broad and balance education for all children by meeting their academic, social, moral and spiritual needs within a caring, positive and stimulating environment. We aim to have a positive ethos where there is a mutual respect between pupils, staff, and visitors to the school. People are valued and encouraged to have high self esteem.

Organisation of Collective Worship

The timing and organisation of collective worship is flexible, and can include the whole school together in one place, or in classes.

In EYFS the children spend collective worship time together exploring issues which are of relevance to their moral, emotional and spiritual development, sharing feelings and experiences. It incorporates songs, stories, circle time, and prayer and is relevant to the children.

Throughout KS1 and KS2 a variety of daily assemblies take place, including teacher or Headteacher led whole school assemblies, singing assemblies, and celebration assemblies. Birthdays, achievements in and out of school and good learning behaviours are all celebrated. These whole school assemblies may sometimes include visitors from our wider school community, for example Open the Book to share Bible stories, or our visitors from South Africa.. The children gather together for whole school assemblies three times a week, and have class collective worship on the remaining days.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

All children have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. However, parents may, without prejudice, withdraw their child from acts of Collective Worship, if they feel that the act of worship is wholly or partly inappropriate. Any such requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The policy will be implemented throughout the school. The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be effective if all pupils (when parental consent is given) participate in daily collective worship, if all children are afforded a range of experiences which allow them to explore and share beliefs and values and every assembly involves an opportunity for prayer or reflection.