

The Coombes CE Primary School

All our policies reflect the Christian ethos of the school with children at heart and in mind

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

The school recognises, as with all areas of the curriculum, collective worship should be a valid educational experience, and that, as set down in the 1988 Education Reform Act, the nature of the collective worship is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Purpose of the Policy

The school sees the time set aside for Collective Worship as being a time for sharing and togetherness; a sharing of knowledge, feelings and experience. It is seen as a time when we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of Arborfield and to the society and world in which we live. It is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

Guidelines

- Children will take part in Collective Worship every day.
- All members of staff will be given the opportunity to lead Collective Worship.
- All children will also be given the opportunity to participate in Collective Worship.
- Members of appropriate organisations will be invited to share in Collective Worship.
- Themes used will sometimes relate to the cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world, the deeds of man and the celebration of religious festivals.
- They will also relate to the children's interests – classroom activities, the interests of the community and values upheld by individuals and other communities.
- The themes will be put forward in a variety of ways, e.g. through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion.
- There will sometimes be reference made to faiths other than Christianity.
- The collective worship will include the singing of hymns and songs and opportunities are given, both to join in with and to listen to prayers.
- Time will also be provided for silence and reflection.
- The School will meet sometimes as a whole and sometimes in smaller groups.
- Parents will be allowed to withdraw their children from assemblies after consultation.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. It is the role of the named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Conclusion

The time set aside for Collective Worship gives us the opportunity, as a school, to draw attention to shared values as well as allowing us to explore some spiritual, moral and aesthetic areas of experience.