



Collective Worship Policy

January 2010

Reviewed: March 2012

Review Date: March 2014

*This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body on a two yearly basis. **The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on Wednesday 18th April** It is due for review April 2014.*

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Chair of Governors

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Date

Values and Aims

We at Featherstone Wood Primary school believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:



Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community



Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs



Explore the language which people use to express their feelings



Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them



Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school



Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus



Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular, school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

Objectives

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:



Show an interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community



Celebrate special occasions together

 Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world

 Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school

 Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn....;

 Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people

At Featherstone Wood, we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. When the whole school meets together (currently on Monday and Tuesday), this is generally between 9.00 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. On Thursday there is worship time within Key Stage assemblies, and on Friday, the act of worship forms part of the weekly Achievement assembly.

Every Wednesday we have a singing practice led by the Headteacher. During this we take time to consider carefully the words of one of the songs and make this into a worshipful experience by reflecting on and responding to that song.

The Headteacher usually leads the whole school worship, with a rota of other staff leading worship on Tuesdays. A number of assemblies each term are led by representatives of the local church or visiting speakers.

Planning

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We therefore ensure that the time is not over-dominated by school administration or moralising. We plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods, allowing the opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

We choose from a range of methods, including:

 Pupil's contributions

 Sacred and secular stories/readings

 Dance/drama

 Songs/hymns/music

 Artefacts

 Visual aids/focal points

 Dialogue/creative silence

 Visitors

Success Criteria

We evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

 Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils

 The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community

 Positive response to shared experience

 An atmosphere which matches the theme

 A contribution to individual and community sense of well being

 A sense of occasion

 Good order

 Staff affirmation

 Enrichment of pupil's experience

Prayer

The use of prayer has led to a great deal of debate. At Featherstone Wood we feel that although prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts, it is not always necessary to have a prayer and that the use of regular moments of silence provide opportunities for pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly, however parents of pupils at a community, foundation or voluntary school have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from worship.

Featherstone Wood Primary School

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to keep a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.