



Arkengarthdale C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Document Status			
Date of Next Review	March 2019	Responsibility	
Success Criteria for review completion		Responsibility	
Date of Policy Creation	March 2017	Responsibility	<i>Julie Swinbank-RMS RE leader</i>
Date of Policy Adoption	Signed		
Method of Communication School Policy Folder			

Arkengarthdale C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

1. Introduction

Arkengarthdale C of E Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled school, in North Yorkshire, catering for children aged from 4 to 11 years.

This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

2. Policy statement

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

The aims of collective worship in Arkengarthdale C of E Primary School should:

1. promote a sense of community;
2. be educational;
3. promote SMSC development;
4. be a special time;
5. enable participants to be actively involved;
6. be of high quality.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.

Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, which are contrary to their family background.

They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.

Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow, etc.

Collective worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated through planning, observations and surveys by the SLT, Governors and Reverend Caroline Hewlett.

3. The legal requirements: the Education Reform Act 1988

Organisation

The whole school takes part in a daily collective worship. This is led by senior leaders of the school, members of the Church community, teachers and/or children.

The school provides a daily act of worship which is mainly of a broadly Christian character.

- All of our Collective Worship takes account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.
- When appropriate, for example if a child attending Collective Worship follows another faith other than Christianity at home, other faiths values will be included as a celebration of shared values amongst faiths. This supports the Christian teaching of 'Respect' for other people. It also demonstrates our 'inclusive' approach.
- The school follows the Roots and Fruits Scheme which focuses on each Christian value in turn. It also draws from other resources, including those of other faiths to provide a rich context for which the children can develop a sense of self.
- The school has a SACRE determination which allows us to hold a daily act of collective worship which is of an inclusive character drawing inspiration from a range of faiths, beliefs and traditions.

Interpreting the law for our school

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Parents are asked to contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns.

Arrangements for those children withdrawn from Collective Worship

It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case the following arrangements will be made. Children who follow a different faith to Christianity or have no faith and whose parents have requested a withdrawal, will be able to use the Collective Worship time to reflect on their own beliefs and thoughts. All provision will reflect these individual needs.

4. The content of Collective Worship

The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils: to provide opportunities for reflection: to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential. It provides a framework for personal growth.

Each Christian Value is focused on for a half term through the Roots and Fruits scheme. Children listen to stories and learn about each value in depth. They are then encouraged to reflect upon their own beliefs, deciding if these values need assimilating into their own character. The children (and adults) in our school are also invited to consider how they can take this learning to enhance, not just their own but other's lives accordingly.

Hymns and prayers are used sensitively. Engagement in prayer is not mandatory and children are asked to use the opportunity to reflect meaningfully on their own personal thoughts.

A Collective Worship towards the beginning of the week often launches the week's themes, successive assemblies then build on the theme in an age appropriate way. The final Assembly of the week is a Certificate giving, celebration of the value and self-worth of the children as they develop their personal choices and engagements with our values system.

5. Conclusion

Collective Worship is an opportunity for us to work together on nurturing each child into a respectful, responsible and thoughtful member of society, able to engage with others and having a shared sense of purpose.