

Shelton Junior School



Collective Worship Policy

Approved: January 2017

Review date: January 2020

BACKGROUND TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT SHELTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

We define collective worship at Shelton Junior School as being worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. We believe that collective worship should provide children with the opportunity to be part of a daily experience which is special and separate from other daily activities. We believe that collective worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community. Collective worship is part of Shelton Junior School's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. At Shelton, we recognise that collective worship needs to be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children in the school.

VALUES AND AIMS

We believe at Shelton Junior School 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 supporting 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 other people in every day 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 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
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- 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.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part or its entirety.

An assembly is a gathering of part or all of the school. It is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life, although in practice it is more than that. It is of the utmost importance that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are concerned solely with administration.

At Shelton Junior School every assembly incorporates an act of worship which aims to be inclusive, curricular and educational where all pupils are capable of responding.

IMPLEMENTATION

At Shelton Junior School a wide range of people are encouraged to lead collective worship. Staff are encouraged to take an active role in leading worship. Governors, faith community members and other community groups are encouraged to be involved when and where appropriate, either by occasional participation or by specific invitation.

Typically the format will be:-

Monday – Class council

Tuesday - Whole school. Attendance & FBV themed assembly (Year group/teacher led on a rota)

Wednesday – Whole school singing assembly (songs always have a moral theme)

Friday - Whole school achievement assembly (HT/SLT led)

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. Therefore, 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 opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

We choose from a range of methods, including:

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

WITHDRAWAL OF CHILDREN FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The main aim of collective worship at Shelton Junior School is for it to be meaningful and relevant to all pupils and staff, for those with a faith background and those with none. It is therefore hoped that few parents will feel that they have to remove their child from collective worship as this breaks the unity of the school.

Parents do, however, have the right to withdraw their child without any explanation. As a school we pride ourselves on good communication with parents and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective

worship so that misunderstanding and confusion as to its nature can be avoided. Teachers also have the right to withdraw. The Headteacher is not responsible for providing alternative worship but does ensure that these children have adequate supervision.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

The staff and Governors at Shelton Junior School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their gender, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests and reflect the multicultural society we live in.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

At Shelton 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
- A sense of challenge
- A place in the overall plan of the school
- Enrichment of pupil's experience

The FBV subject leader is responsible for setting up the rota for the whole school FBV themed assemblies on a Tuesday. A bank of resources is located in a central area and staff are encouraged to make links to the children's lives, current events and the local community. The rota is monitored termly to check that coverage of the 5 FBV has taken place.

This policy was written in January 2017

Collective Worship leader: Mags Hutt

Collective Worship governor: