



SEFTON PARK INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

Collective worship is for all pupils, every day at Sefton Park Infant and Junior School. It normally forms part of an assembly or its entirety. Collective worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore to develop a sense of community. Collective worship is a part of the school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a good time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the community.

The purpose of Collective Worship at Sefton Park Infant and Junior Schools

During collective worship at our school, we are working towards creating experiences which recognise the integrity and dignity of all members of the school community, both those who adopt a religious lifestance and those who do not. These experiences should be educational and stimulate the possibility of a person's inward reflection which can lead them to the development of an outward and open lifestyle in which they live generously with others.

A broad and flexible approach should be adopted for collective worship as with any other activity in the school.

Statutory Requirements

Collective Worship complies with legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states that 'Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief.

However, it is fundamental that collective worship be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children at the school. Therefore, 'an act of worship which is 'broadly Christian' need not contain Christian material only' (DFE 34).

Such beliefs that are broadly Christian are inclusive to other major world faiths. Examples are God, justice, love, peace, good, evil, poverty, charity, pollution, morality, tolerance, selfishness, war and prejudice. Such a wide ranging list clearly demonstrates the scope which is available to the person leading collective worship. Thus, if a broad and flexible approach is adopted, collective worship will not affect the integrity of anyone taking part at our school but may develop the spiritual awareness of every individual.

Collective Worship and Assembly

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for the act of

collective worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part of the assembly or its entirety. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon their life experiences and to seek out answers to ultimate questions as far as their intellectual and spiritual capacities will allow them.

Collective worship at our school endeavours to encourage the development of these areas in every child. It is a time when the individual child can be celebrated for his or her social and academic achievements, and a time to foster the positive values held at the school, the local community and the wider world.

An assembly is a gathering of all or part of the school. It is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life, although it is usually in practice 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. Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to make a spiritual response freely if it is appropriate for them.

At our school every assembly incorporates an act of worship which aims to be inclusive, curricular and educational where all pupils are capable of responding. It should contribute to the education (in its broadest sense) of all the pupils and there needs to be a sense of occasion.

Programme elements

In order for collective worship to be delivered effectively, careful preparation, good organisation, time, resources and training are all necessary elements. Our school has embarked upon a whole school approach to collective worship planning

Collective Worship Thematic Overview with [Links to Relationships Education](#):

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
	Me in My World Families and Friendship	Families and Friendship Say No to Bullying	Reach for the Stars Our Digital Selves	Our Digital Selves Keeping Safe	Healthy Me Growing and Changing	Growing and Changing Safe Relationships
Annual Events:	Harvest	Diwali Christmas	Chinese New Year	Eid		

There is a new theme introduced to the school by the Headteacher or Senior leader at the beginning of each selection of weeks. The school then explores elements of this theme through a variety of methods and groupings throughout the weeks –two days per week

are whole school collective worship; one day is song practice with an act of worship taking place in phase/class; one day per week each class holds a classroom based act of worship which may also be delivered in year groups. Celebration assembly, with an act of worship, also takes place on Fridays

Collective worship at Sefton Park Infant and Junior Schools is coordinated by the Headteacher with the help of the Senior Management Team. Electronic records are kept of the act of worship: the date, song, story, poem used and a brief outline are included. These are used to monitor the range and variety of experiences being offered to the children.

The outcomes of collective worship at the school are evaluated through the process of teacher observation, pupil feedback, parental feedback on the quality of the school's ethos and communal relationships.

Withdrawal of pupils from collective worship

Currently no parents withdraw their children from worship. Should a parent wish to withdraw their child, the Headteacher is not responsible for providing alternative worship but would ensure that these children were adequately supervised.

Conclusion

Collective worship at Sefton Park Infant and Junior schools complies with all recent requirements and whenever possible acts upon advice from relevant educational bodies. We offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence. We offer them opportunities to consider the relevance of ideas, beliefs and values to their own lives and to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a community. Appreciating the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them is also a vital aspect of the work we do with our children. At our school collective worship also offers the opportunity to interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate achievement and worthwhile or positive behaviour. It builds up our common life.

Governing Sub Committee: Curriculum & Standards
Policy approved : January 2025
Review date: January 2028

