



Collective Worship Policy

" Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs: to encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered: and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes" DES Circular on Collective Worship.

Collective Worship helps to meet the aims of Beacon Hill School in the following ways.

Beacon Hill School aims to be a community which

That actively develops parental partnerships for the benefit of the pupils
Collective worship can be an important way of involving parents who are invited in to special occasions and are aware of the rewards which pupils receive from week to week.

That has ambitious expectations for individual improvement to achieve excellence for all.

Collective worship contributes to raising standards by reinforcing work completed in lessons, by celebrating pupils' academic and personal achievements and by helping to create a sense of community for the whole school. Collective worship contributes to a broad and balanced curriculum by taking into account the age, aptitudes, ability and family backgrounds of pupils. They also offer pupils a valuable opportunity for stillness and reflection.

That promotes an happy, healthy atmosphere of security, trust and respect.

Some acts of collective worship focus on the importance of health and looking after ourselves, others and God's world. The sense of community feeling engendered in collective worship helps create a happy corporate atmosphere in school.

That develops pupils independence and self advocacy, and confidence to make informed choices.

Acts of collective worship at Beacon Hill give pupils of all ages the opportunity to stand at the front and describe their work or reflect on something they have done or achieved. This develops their self-advocacy skills in a positive way.

That celebrates achievement for everyone.

Acts of collective worship provide one opportunity for pupils to receive formal recognition for their achievements and for the school as a whole to celebrate things such as achieving the Basic Skills Quality Mark.

That empowers all individuals equally and so meets diverse needs.

Many of the issues discussed in collective worship relate to moral responsibility and citizenship. Pupils are also encouraged to develop high self-esteem and this challenges discrimination. All pupils whatever their disability are enabled to play a full part in collective worship

In which all partners include, involve and inform each other.

Collective worship is a forum in which issues of co-operation and working together can to be explored in school.

Acknowledges and celebrates everyone's right to communicate effectively.

Collective worship gives everyone the opportunity to communicate to a whole group including pupils who need to use alternative communication systems such as Dynavox and Big Macs.

That develops high quality inclusion within and beyond Beacon Hill.

Collective worship gives us the opportunity to invite a range of visitors into school to work with pupils in that setting. These can include visiting priests, firefighters, road safety advisors and members of the community who have made donations to the school.

The general aims for collective worship itself are;

1. To heighten pupils' awareness of questions relating to life and of beliefs held and commitments made by themselves and others.
2. To encourage in pupils to use silence for reflection, stilling, contemplation and as appropriate prayer.
3. To develop a sense of community within the school and of being part of a wider community.
4. To celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect of individuals, for the school and wider community.
5. To celebrate diversity and difference.
6. To give opportunities for creativity and imagination.
7. To give opportunity to look for meaning and purpose in life.
8. To encourage a sense of awe, wonder and mystery in the natural world.
9. To establish positive school relationships based on tolerance, acceptance and appreciation.
10. To give opportunity for personal reflection.

Guidelines.

- Collective worship will be led by a variety of people including school staff and pupils and members of the local community.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship. Any parent who wishes to do this will contact the Headteacher. Any pupils withdrawn in this way will have agreed activities in PSHE and C during collective worship
- Collective worship will be of a broadly Christian character but will help promote respect and tolerance for those of other faiths.
- Staff have the right to withdraw from collective worship but must be present when rewards and other activities take place.
- Acts of Collective Worship will be held weekly in school in line with DES Circular 3/89.
- To ensure age appropriateness the Primary and Secondary Departments will normally have separate acts of collective worship but on special occasions the whole school will join together.
- Pupils in Post 16 do not have an act of collective worship in line with policy at Tynemet College where they are based.
- Each Act of Collective worship will include an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of pupils.
- Pupils will normally be involved in presenting items and issues for consideration and reflection. The classes will take turns to plan and present acts of collective worship.
- Collective Worship will normally last no more than 20 mins.
- Parents and other visitors will be invited to collective worship if appropriate.
- Each act of collective worship will include an opportunity for quiet reflection about the topic under discussion.
- A range of resources and styles of presentation will be used for collective worship. These include music, drama, dance, demonstrations, prayer, use of video, use of objects and artefacts and the use of appropriate stories.
- All acts of collective worship will use signs, symbols and alternative methods of communication which ensures access to all pupils.
- Staff will use the agreed planning sheet and will ensure these are kept in the relevant file by the head of Department to ensure continuity and progression for pupils.
- The planning sheet will record opportunities for pupils to develop positive attitudes to themselves, awareness of others, opportunity for reflection, awareness of the world around them and values and honesty.
- The RE subject manager will monitor one act of collective worship in each department termly.
- Collective worship will ensure and will address issues of equal opportunity.
- Appropriate systems will be used to ensure the involvement of pupils with ASD including the use of known symbols, a common structure and the use of vocabulary such as finished. As this situation is a challenging one for these pupils it may be that they only attend for part of the time. The aim is for them to be enabled to fully take part in the activity.

- School Council will be involved in delivering items and discussions at collective worship.
- Collective worship will be used to celebrate and discuss national issues and events such as Holocaust Memorial Day, Red Nose Day etc.



Collective Worship Planning Sheet.

Planning Sheet for Collective Worship		
Date	Topic	Teacher
Positive attitudes to self		
Awareness of others		
Awareness of world		
Values and honesty		
Link to topic		
Songs		
Opportunity for reflection		
Pupil Involvement		

These sheets are stored by the Head of Department.

Collective Worship Awards

Date

Class	Pupil	Reason
Early Years		
Class 1		
Class 2		
Class 3		
Class 4		
Class 5		

These sheets to be retained by the Head of Department.