

Elsley Primary School



Collective Worship Policy (Draft) September 2020

Policy written by:
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1. Aims

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Elsley Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can meet to:

- Share common aims and values.
- Celebrate achievements and special occasions.
- Develop a culture of respect and sensitivity towards differences in opinion through sharing experiences and dialogue with others.
- Give children a space to further explore their own beliefs.
- Explore together the world we live in through discussions.
- Develop a community spirit and establish a shared identity.
- Teach children how to reflect on things that happen in their lives.

We strive to be an inclusive school where all members of the community feel represented and valued. Through Collective worship we promote values which include:

- British Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Respect and understanding of different faiths, beliefs and worldviews.
- Unicef Rights of the Child.

2. Collective Worship

What is Collective Worship?

The term 'worship' refers to a special act or occasion where reverence is shown to a God. Collective Worship as defined here, is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school can meet to discuss and reflect on common concerns, issues or share interests related to the world, their faith or worldview. The sessions provide pupils with the opportunity to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

Worship can mean:

- Awareness of
- Appreciation of
- Respect for
- Commitment to

We understand and appreciate that our school community is very diverse. We have people from a range of cultures and backgrounds, both religious and non-religious. Therefore, our Collective Worship does not suggest an act of worship which involves individuals subscribing to a faith or worldview. We do not seek uniformed responses from the children rather the session caters to the diversity in beliefs and viewpoints and allows the children to respond as individuals. We have been granted a determination from Brent SACRE (renewed every 5 years), enabling all children to take part in a daily act of collective worship of such a type that would be acceptable to all pupils, parents, and staff. There is a need for collective worship to continue and to share a number of religions and non-religious beliefs, traditions and values.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship

How often is Collective Worship carried out?

Collective Worship takes place every day in classrooms or in year groups, in phases or in whole key stage or whole school assemblies.

What does Collective Worship look like?

Sessions involve time to reflect, have class discussions and share celebrations. An example of a reflection may be time taken to focus on things they are grateful for. They will be led by the class teacher who will facilitate contributions from children.

Discussions and reflections may be centred around sayings, poems, stories among other things that are important to the children. The children will be supported in understanding the values shared through these different mediums.

We aim to cultivate an atmosphere that is calm and reflective, where children can appreciate the contributions of individuals and groups within their school community.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully and appropriately.

The headteacher or other leaders normally conduct assemblies. We also invite carefully selected guest speakers, such as representatives from faith and community groups. We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of a range of faiths and we reflect the festivals and events of four of the main religions: Christian, Islamic, Hindu and Jewish calendars. We try to ensure they are celebrated equally and represent and reflect the wider community, not just what is reflected in the school community. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place. Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the school's ethos which is; that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Elsley Primary School celebrates the successes of all the children in assemblies and parents and governors are invited to attend special assemblies, such as end of term celebrations.

One important festival is celebrated from each of the main religions:- each year group performs the festival themed assembly once a half term:

Autumn 1 - SUKKOT/HARVEST ASSEMBLY (Judaism/Christian) – Year 6

Autumn 2 - DIWALI ASSEMBLY (Hindu) – Year 4

Christmas - CHRISTMAS NATIVITY ASSEMBLY (Christian) – Year 1

Spring 1 - CHINESE NEW YEAR ASSEMBLY (Buddhist) – Reception

Spring 2 - WESAK ASSEMBLY (Buddhist) – Year 5

Summer 1 - EASTER ASSEMBLY (Christian) – Year 3

Summer 2 - RAMADAN ASSEMBLY (Islam) – Year 2

Three RE lessons are taught each half term in conjunction with our PSHE lessons. RE Long term and Medium term plans are created in conjunction with Brent agreed syllabus for RE.

Who delivers collective Worship?

Sessions are delivered by Class Teachers, other members of staff including the Senior Leadership Team and, selected, invited guests.

Where does our Collective Worship focus come from?

Our Collective Worship follows the Brent SACRE's model approach. Focus areas are also linked with our own school values, British Values and current events. We also recognise or celebrate national events, anniversaries or cultural influences such as Remembrance Day and Black History Month.

4. Right of Withdrawal

At Elsley Primary School, our Collective Worship sessions aim to develop our children's sense of identity, belonging to a community and facilitate their spiritual and moral development. Parents who object to their child attending these sessions have the right to request that their child is withdrawn. They are encouraged to discuss this with the Wider Curriculum Leader and Headteacher.

5. Monitoring and Review

The policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Wider Curriculum Leader, SLT and Governors.

Date: September 2020

Review Date: September 2024