



LAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

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1. Aims and Objectives:

1.1 What are the aims and objectives of Collective Worship at Layfield Primary School?

The aims and objectives of collective worship at Layfield Primary School are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship and reflect;

We aim to be an inclusive school and offer equality of opportunity and diversity when needed to all groups of pupils within school.

We value, seek to understand, and identify the potential in everyone. Through collective worship we promote values, which include:

- British democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs (and no faith)
- Unicef Rights of the Child.

We do this alongside an appreciation and celebration of difference and diversity (reflecting all protected characteristics and social class). We promote rights and accept that rights come with responsibility.

Valuing our cultural heritage, we explore our local, regional and national heritage and British history, both positive and negative – learning from history and taking pride in positive contributions made.

1.2 How does Collective Worship Link to UNICEF CRC?

At Layfield, we ensure that the Rights of the Children are embedded through all learning opportunities, collective worship included. We have a themed assembly every week which is often linked to the UNICEF CRC so that pupils can see how their rights are being met. During assembly on a Friday, the head teacher awards are linked to this theme and right to also help increase pupils awareness. See below how collective worship links to the UNICEF CRC Articles:

Article 3 – The best interests of the child must be a top priority.

Article 6 – Every child has the right to develop to their full potential.

Article 12 – Every child has the right to express their views.

Article 13 – Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions.

Article 19 – Every child must be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment.

Article 23 – Every child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life.

Article 24 – Every child has the right to the best possible health.

Article 28 – Every child has the right to an education.

Article 42 – Children and adults must know about the convention.

2. Collective Worship:

2.1 What is Collective Worship?

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to a God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 How do Layfield Primary School carry out Collective Worship?

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 When do Layfield Primary School carry out Collective Worship?

Collective worship forms part of our assemblies. While most acts of collective worship in our school are Christian, our assemblies reflect global, national and local events, the annual calendar, and the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship:

3.1 How often is Collective Worship carried out at Layfield?

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each daily assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly (although sometimes we also hold separate team and phase assemblies), or a class assembly.

3.2 What does Collective Worship look like at Layfield Primary School?

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection and thinking. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully, and to participate in prayer and hymns or singing. Before prayers, we ask children to decide whether they wish to 'put their hands together and close their eyes' or 'choose a point of focus'. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 Who delivers Collective Worship at Layfield Primary School?

The assemblies are normally conducted by the members of staff but every Friday the pupils conduct a praise assembly. Sometimes assemblies are led by other visitors.

3.4 Where does our Collective Worship focus come from?

We take the themes of our assemblies from events and special days that occur around the world including, traditions of the Christian faith. We also observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Assemblies have a different focus each week and are outlined half termly on a rota. Our collective worship focus varies throughout the week but includes: singing assembly, theme assembly, class assembly, sharing assembly and a whole school celebration assembly.

Although we plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place, there are times that assemblies will take place but may occur at different times for example due to hall timetabling. Weekly themes are published every half term, which allows room for changes, for example, current affairs.

3.5 Who can take part in our Collective Worship?

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Layfield Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

3.6 Can members of the school community join in our Collective Worship?

On some weeks, there is a particular assembly that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

Governors' are always welcome to attend our assemblies.

4. Right of Withdrawal

4.1 Can a parent withdraw their child from Collective Worship?

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 What happens if someone withdraws from Collective Worship?

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5. Implementation

5.1 How is Collective Worship monitored at Layfield Primary School?

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.

5.2 How often is the Collective Worship policy reviewed?

This policy will be reviewed annually.