



Swavesey Primary School

Policy for Collective Worship

Collective worship contributes to the life of the school and all its members by giving opportunities for reflection, contributing to personal, spiritual growth and the development of an awareness of community. At Swavesey we consciously strive to promote a positive, caring ethos throughout the school which is reflected in our collective worship.

Aims

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship God
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered.
- Enable children to develop an awareness of other communities, cultures and faiths

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been **withdrawn by their parents**). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils.

Withdrawal from collective worship

Collective worship is an expression of the ethos and shared life of the school community. The school will wish to ensure that it is conducted in such a way that children's participation in acts of worship such as prayer is invited and voluntary rather than expected without questioning. Worship should be planned to be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of all pupils.

Occasionally a parent may wish to exercise the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. In this case the school may wish to try to discuss the matter with parents to make sure their request is based on a clear understanding of what school worship involves and also to make arrangements for the supervision of the child.

Teachers have similar rights but would, if they exercised them, miss out on the sense of community generated by effective collective worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.