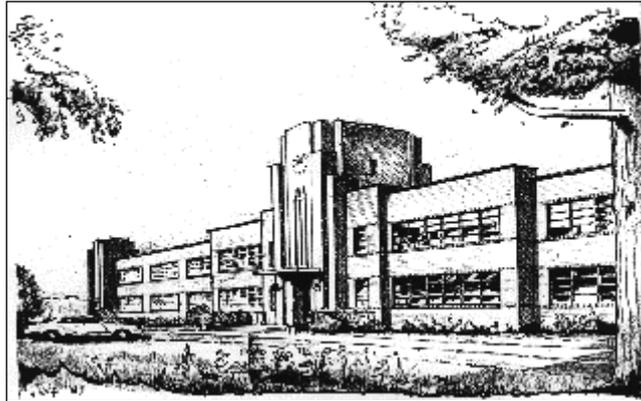


William Torbitt Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

October 2014

Review October 2017

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interest. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Collective worship

- An act of collective worship will take place every day. The time at which this takes place, and the form of the collective worship, ie whole school, phase or class groupings, may vary from day to day.
- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together, as a class, key stage or whole school, and participating in an assembly.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', assemblies are based on Christian values and principles. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- We also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Aims and purpose

Our aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- To provide an opportunity for children to consider the purpose and meaning of life;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To celebrate achievement and special occasions;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To provide an opportunity for calm reflection;
- To deepen children's sense of awe and wonder.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in William Torbitt Primary School Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

Organisation of collective worship

- We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school and this forms part of each assembly. It may include music, song, stories, shared experiences, readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection.
- The Headteacher, SLT, teachers and sometimes children will lead assemblies. When appropriate, visitors from local religious groups or organisations are also invited to lead assemblies.
- 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 ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- We invite and encourage parents to attend celebratory assemblies which promote the community spirit of the school and are a practical demonstration of the way that home and school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- School governors may attend assemblies during Governors' Days as part of their monitoring responsibilities.

Right of withdrawal

- We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

- Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.