



Temple Sowerby CE Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

2023-25

APPROVED BY: Teaching & Learning Committee

Name: Mrs Hannah Cleasby

Position: Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee / Governing Body

Signed: 

Date: 17/01/2023

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Temple Sowerby CE School Collective Worship Policy

Living for learning; learning for life.

Our Vision

At Temple Sowerby CE Primary School, our vision for the school community is rooted in a deep respect for our human, social, and cultural values, expressed in a caring Christian ethos. We aim to provide high academic standards and a wide range of experiences and opportunities. In doing so, we encourage all children to flourish by giving them the skills they need to become good citizens and to discover life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

Rationale

The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires that all schools conduct a daily act of Collective Worship either as a full school or in smaller groups and that such daily worship should be of a broadly Christian character. This policy has been prepared by the Headteacher and class teachers in consultation with the governors and with these requirements in mind.

Aims

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens our school vision and what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. It also provides an opportunity to express and develop our school values of community, responsibility, resilience, courage, hope and kindness. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child (spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually) is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

Practicalities

There is a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils which takes a variety of forms. Our school values are used as a focus for these acts of collective worship – a different value for each half term. Pupils listen, watch, ask and answer questions, share in singing and in quiet times. We recognise that there are many pupils with no religious background in our school. Usually we gather at 3.00pm and the act of worship lasts approximately 15 minutes. In the majority of cases, the collective worship is led by a teacher. However, we also regularly invite our local vicar to lead collective worship in school, as well as other members of the church or school community. On the first Monday of every month, our collective worship is held in St James Church in Temple Sowerby, where parents are encouraged to attend. We also attend services in the church at the end of each term. The pupils are encouraged to play an active role in Collective Worship, leading and evaluating where appropriate.

Content

We believe our acts of worship are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. Through these acts of worship, pupils are presented with opportunities to:

- Hear and respond to stories from the Bible and other sacred texts.
- Celebrate festivals from Christianity and other faith groups.
- Reflect on current events.
- Share in appreciating the talents and experiences of others.
- Experience different forms of worship including prayer, silence, music and drama.
- Learn about Christian and other organisations sometimes through visitors.
- Share in appreciating the natural world.
- Reflect and respond to school community issues.
- Hear and respond to literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching.

Resources

Money from the school budget is used for resourcing collective worship. Visual aids, music and books are purchased as needed. Parents and families and governors are regularly invited and encouraged to attend acts of worship. We use the Values for Life resource file to support our programme of Collective Worship.

Evaluation and Review

Where appropriate, evaluations of collective worship will be carried out by both pupils and staff to inform future planning. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Withdrawal

Great care is taken in our Collective Worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special. Collective Worship at our school is an all inclusive activity. Parents do have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship if they wish but we hope such a situation will not need to arise. Parents who have concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher.