

Barrow Hall Community Primary School

“I am here to feel secure, to be valued and to learn”



Learning for Life

Creating opportunity,
embracing difference,
following dreams.

Collective Worship Policy

Date of policy: July 2018

Review date: July 2019

Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Barrow Hall Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements. Our Collective worship policy sets out our aspirations to ensure it is a valuable part of school life, shaping our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Aims

The collective worship policy is designed to:

- State Barrow Hall Primary School's response to collective worship.
- Explain the purpose of collective worship.
- Provide parents / guardians with an overview of what the school will / will not do in regard to collective worship.
- Inform parents / guardians of their right to withdraw their child from collective worship.

Rationale

Families who send their children to this school are in the main 'Christian or predominantly from non-religious backgrounds, or from a range of faith backgrounds, including Hindu, Muslim, Jewish. Some children are from practising Christian families and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to take part in collective worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

Acts of collective worship should be inclusive for everyone and appropriate for all children (and teachers), whatever their religious commitments or lack of religious commitments and should celebrate and affirm difference and diversity.

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 interests. 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 can provide opportunities to identify, affirm and celebrate the ideals and values held to be of central importance to the school. The focus on the community life of the school is also affirmed by the shared sense that comes from assembly

Collective Worship aims

Collective worship contributes to the ethos of the school and to the spiritual well-being of pupils when it:

- offers space and stillness for pupils to reflect on the values the school seeks to live by
- fosters a spirit of community in the school, year group or class
- celebrates achievement and special times
- helps pupils to reflect on what it means to be human
- enables children to share concerns, interests and reflections
- provides alternative views of life and lifestyles for pupils to consider
- help pupils ponder on the many ultimate questions life presents

- offers insights into religious beliefs and commitments in an open way
- shares what unites the community and acknowledges and celebrates diversity
- helps children to explore their own beliefs and develop their own spirituality
- provides opportunities for those who wish to worship God
- develops good relationships with church links in the local community

The Legal Requirements

The legislative framework was originally set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act and reiterated in the 1996 Education Act. Main points of consideration are:

- All maintained schools and Academies, whether or not they have a religious character, are required to have daily acts of collective worship and to teach religious education as part of their curriculum.
- Collective worship must take place on a daily basis, for approximately 15 minutes.
- Collective worship may be held at any time during the school day and can be part of 'assembly time'.
- Separate acts of collective worship may be arranged for different ages.
- Collective worship must take place on school premises.
- Most acts of collective worship taking place in a community or a non-religious foundation school must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. It can contain non-Christian elements or on occasions contain no Christian elements, provided that throughout each term, the majority of the worship complies with the broad traditions of Christian belief.
- Parents in all schools have a legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Any such request must be made in writing to the Head Teacher.
- Teachers, including head teachers, have the right to withdraw from collective worship and cannot be discriminated against for doing so.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Head Teacher, after consultation with the governing body is responsible for ensuring the daily act of collective worship is carried out. The collective worship co-ordinator is responsible for the planning of a programme, which is communicated to staff (available on the staff shared area, Collective Worship, every half term). Individual staff are responsible for ensuring that their act of collective worship has a clear and meaningful purpose for their specific age range of children.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all children. Half termly planning lists themes, values, special occasions and events and will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Links will be made to the school vision, values and missions statement.

Visitors will be welcome to lead/take part in collective worship from time to time under the supervision of staff. The 'content' they deliver will be discussed with the collective worship co-ordinator in advance. Regular visitors are timetabled as part of our collective worship programme for each half term.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles, active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of collective worship. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age and the background of the children.

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. At Barrow Hall Primary School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive. Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

Withdrawal

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act of Collective Worship on the grounds of religious conscience. Those wishing to withdraw their child are encouraged to put their request in writing to the head.

Monitoring and Review

The responsibility for monitoring and review of acts of collective worship lies with the head and the collective worship co-ordinator. This policy will be reviewed annually.