



Collective Worship Policy

Member of staff responsible: Kelsey Obbeek

Ratified by Governors: May 2020

Next review date: May 2022

Review cycle: Two years

Rationale

In accordance with education legislation, it is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of collective worship each day. At Bush Hill Park Primary school we hold a daily act of collective worship, this takes many varying forms. "An act of worship can perform an important function in binding together members of a school and helping them to develop their sense of community." This quote from Baroness Hooper (1988) forms the rationale behind our chosen collective worship strategy.

At Bush Hill Park Primary school our families who send their children to this school are from a range of faith backgrounds. When gathering the children of our school to collective worship we always consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to pursue any particular religious approach. Through R.E lessons children are exposed to a range of world beliefs, practices, cultures and religions.

At Bush Hill Park Primary School we do not believe that worship is only: prayer, hymns or readings from scripture. Instead, we believe that collective worship is a time for reflection and this can be wonder, gratitude, praise, mystery and celebration and these are all evident in our twice weekly assemblies. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

This policy covers our school's approach to including a 'collective worship' time during the day, promoting reflection and calmness within and across the school.

This policy has been produced by the curriculum lead for R.E. in consultation with the staff and curriculum lead. The policy will be made available to all members of our school's community on our school website and translated copies will be available upon request. This policy should be read alongside the Religious Education Policy.

Aims

Collective worship aims to provide children with time to reflect upon their day, explore their beliefs, consider social, moral and spiritual issues. Collective worship also serves to promote community spirit, shared values and the ethos of the school. It is a time for children to deepen their wonder of the world around them, grow in confidence and broaden their understanding of the feelings of those around them.

Furthermore, it will allow children the time to develop their awareness of the diversity that surrounds them as well as affirm each other's life stance; religious or not. During collective worship, children's achievements will be celebrated, things of value and worth will be shared but children will still have the opportunity to reflect during this time if they wish to do so.

Definition

Collective Worship in Bush Hill Park relates to the idea of gathering as a group; it does not in any way suggest an act of worship which involves a group meeting to subscribe to any particular faith or denomination of a faith. School collective worship recognises that a school community is a collection of people. At Bush Hill Park, it is inclusive and sensitive to individuals. It is to serve a meaningful purpose to all the members of the school; a place filled with varieties of cultural and religious or non-religious backgrounds, promoting tolerance, respect and understanding. Collective worship is unlike corporate worship as the latter takes place within a place of worship dependant on the faith, e.g. a Church, a Gurdwara or a Mosque.

Working with parents

Without being denominationally biased, it is expected that schools dedicate a small amount of time each day to collective worship. This time is to be spent reflecting.

We do not teach or promote any particular faith or religion, and collective worship is predominantly a time to reflect on the school values, current and world news and events and PSHE themes. Therefore children should not be withdrawn from any sessions. Any queries should be directed in the first instance to the RE Co-ordinator and Curriculum Lead.

However, parents have the right to request that their child be partly or wholly excused from collective worship. In addition to this, a child also has the right to remove themselves from collective worship, any such request is to be put in writing to the Headteacher. Parents will be invited in to discuss concerns and to ensure that there is no misunderstanding as to the nature of the programme at our school. If parents wish to proceed, a copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record.

Delivery of Collective Worship

Broadly, collective worship at Bush Hill Park primary school is more appropriately referred to as 'worth-ship'. To deliver this time at Bush Hill, we currently combine our acts of collective worship with assemblies on Monday and Friday afternoons. In addition to this, all classes dedicate an afternoon or part of an afternoon to 'Circle Time' where the children are given a question or a 'thunk' to think through, during this time they are also invited to share thoughts, worries and beliefs of their own (this is timetabled weekly at class teacher's discretion). In addition to this, classroom teachers dedicate a small amount of time to collective worship on the days when there are no assemblies or circle time. The teacher celebrates any achievements within the class, allow the children time to ponder and reflect on their beliefs, ideas, values, morals and themselves in light of our school values. Additionally, all class teachers share a class novel daily with their classes and form discussion and debate around this, this can also be considered a time of collective 'worth-ship'. All teachers at Bush Hill Park, teachers are encouraged to model participation in and enthusiasm for Collective Worship.

Organisation

- Each day the school will have a daily act of collective worship
- There will be a theme to the assemblies each week
- There will be a time for personal reflection during collective worship

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| Monday | Themed assembly – current and world news and events and reflective of school values |
| Tuesday | Time in class reflecting through PSHE themes/ class novel |
| Wednesday | Time in class reflecting through PSHE themes/ class novel |
| Thursday | Time in class through PSHE themes/ class novel |
| Friday | Celebration Assembly |

Success Criteria

At this school, we will evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well-being

Our Principles

- It should foster the spiritual, moral and cultural sense of self
- It should celebrate difference and diversity
- It should respect the integrity of pupils and staff
- It should celebrate and reinforce the school values of respect, responsibility and resilience
- It should be inclusive – collective not corporate
- It should be curricular and meaningful to all pupils
- It should be educational in its aim
- It should contribute to the religious education, personal, social and health education of all pupils
- It should have a sense of occasion
- It should be shaped to the needs of Bush Hill Park primary school
- It should be led by a variety of speakers (staff, pupils and outside speakers)

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Board

The governing board will approve the collective worship policy, and hold the Headteacher, R.E. subject lead and staff to account for its implementation.

The Head Teacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that collective worship is administered consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering Collective Worship in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to R.E. and Collective Worship
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in R.E. and collective worship and, when discussing issues related to worship and religion, treat others with respect and sensitivity.