

CLINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Rationale

Clinton Primary School is passionate about personal development and the community. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Clinton Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide our students with Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education.

Aims

It is our aim at Clinton Primary School that worship should: -

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child;
- foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty and mystery of the natural world;
- support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the SEAL programme;
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community;
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings;
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others;
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience togetherness, belonging, stillness and quiet;
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation;
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship;

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. To meet this requirement we provide a number of different opportunities for high quality acts of worship.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus and his teachings.
- Sharing with students Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Clinton Primary School take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. We are aware that there is an overlap in terms of 'values' between Christianity and other faiths and stories from other cultures may be used in assemblies to help get such values across.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Clinton Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal can be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Organisation

Day	Person Leading	When and Where
Monday	Open the book	9.00am Whole School in hall
Tuesday	Class Teachers	KS1 hall/KS2 hall
Wednesday	Circle time assembly	9.00am in classrooms
Thursday	Worship through Music	9.00am in hall
Friday	Celebration and class assemblies	Whole school 9.00am

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship. These are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The Class Council seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the School council.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by head.

Review of this policy

This policy should be reviewed annually by the Quality and Standards committee and recommended to the full governing body.