

GRAND AVENUE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

A Policy for Collective Worship

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Agreed by staff and Governors - Spring term 2021
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Aims

The main aim of this policy is to outline the requirements and procedures for a Collective Act of Worship at Grand Avenue Primary and Nursery School, which are based on the Dfes Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship. Collective worship in our school is seen as part of Religious Education and is based on the values and qualities which we consider important, which are:

- respect for every individual;
- respect for our environment;
- being a member of a community;
- enabling every member of our school to achieve their potential;
- respect for the main religions of the world especially Christianity.

(See also Appendix A)

The Purpose of Collective Worship

We intend to celebrate the purpose and meaning of existence with its wonder, mystery, excitement and power. Therefore collective worship aims to:

- reflect on significant features of human life;
- explore our response to the world we live in;
- teach the Christian traditions upon which our society is based;
- recognise and learn about the traditions and festivals of other major world faiths;
- develop our own response to the spiritual side of life;
- develop the ethos of the school and express key values and ideas;
- explore issues and concerns, thereby stimulating and contributing to the spiritual, personal, moral and social development of our pupils.

Conducting an Act of Worship

The setting, atmosphere and contact for conducting an act of worship is vital. How children are treated on their way to, during and after the assembly gives signals about the nature and worth of the activity. This will therefore be undertaken in a positive manner, encouraging reflection and silent contemplation.

- A variety of music will be played for children to listen to as they enter and leave the assembly.
- A small display about the theme may be organised.
- A candle may be lit as a focal point during the act of worship.
- During the act of worship there needs to be a reference to the presence of a higher being.
- A song or hymn may be sung.
- The hall or room may be rearranged to establish the new setting.
- Time allocated for reflection and contemplation

(See Appendix B)

Key Elements in an Act of Worship

There is no one template for an Act of Worship. Some Acts of Worship take place in the hall with a variety of year groups, others may take place in the classroom. They may be undertaken in a variety of ways, including:

a presentation by a child or group of children

a story or poem

a discussion about an artefact

a discussion about a theme

a visiting speaker

(See Appendix C)

Record Keeping

Records of all Acts of Worship are kept and held by the RE co-ordinator. Staff leading Acts of Worship record the following information:

- date
- signature of the staff member leading the Act of Worship
- details of the group attending
- theme/aims/focus of the assembly

Responsibilities

The R.E. Co-ordinator will

Ensure that the themes in both departments are of a broadly Christian nature.

Monitor the record of acts of worship to ensure that they meet legal requirements.

Ensure the Acts of Worship led by visiting speakers are in line with school policy.

Ensure resources are readily available for use during collective worship.

Ensure part of the R.E. budget is used on expenditure for collective worship.

Monitor and evaluate the provision and performance of collective worship.

Report to the Governing Body the result of this monitoring.

The Governors will

Become familiar with the contents of the policy.

Agree the policy, revisions and amendments.

Evaluate the success of the policy through visits to school.

Regularly review the policy.

Support the implementation of the policy.

Ensure funding to support this policy is considered during the budget setting process.

Meet with the RE co-ordinator on a regular basis.

Attend relevant training.

Equal Opportunities

Every child regardless of physical, sensory, intellectual, emotional or behavioural difficulties, gender, social and cultural background, religion or ethnic origin has access to Acts of Worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents are made aware of their right to withdraw their children from Acts of Worship and this is indicated on the school admission form. Parents can, if they wish, provide alternative forms of worship. (See prospectus for further details)

Children who are withdrawn from an Act of Worship are supervised by a member of staff.

Teachers are also able to withdraw from collective worship on grounds of conscience.

Conclusion

At Grand Avenue we provide a Collective Act of Worship each day in line with Government policy. We aim to provide Acts of Worship which include everyone. We regard it as a time of celebration and confirmation of our school aims and values. Staff undertaking the Act of Worship endeavour to provide a time which is thought provoking which all members of our school community can enjoy.

APPENDIX A

Collective worship in our school is based on provisions of the 1993 Education Act and the 1998 Education Reform Act;

These state:

- Collective worship should be provided each day for all pupils.
- The majority of acts of worship in a term should be broadly Christian, reflecting the main traditions of Christian belief.
- Collective worship should be appropriate having regard to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils involved.

APPENDIX B

The Act of Worship programme at Grand Avenue Primary and Nursery School will be:

- INCLUSIVE
- EDUCATIONAL
- FOCUSED
- ENJOYABLE
- FLEXIBLE
- RELATED TO THE NEEDS OF PUPILS AND ABLE TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE.

(Professional Council for Religious Education)

Collective worship offers opportunities to:

- CELEBRATE TOGETHER
- MEDITATE TOGETHER
- BUILD COMMUNITY
- ENHANCE SPIRITUAL GROWTH
- SHARE COMMON VALUES
- CONTRIBUTE TO PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
- FOSTER A CORPORATE IDENTITY
- AFFIRM THE INDIVIDUAL
- ENCOURAGE REFLECTION
- ENRICH EMOTIONAL RESPONSES
- CONSIDER THE REALM OF THE TRANSCENDENT
- EXPLORE BELIEFS AND EXPERIENCES

Professional Council for Religious Education