

Brighter Futures Academy Trust

Collective Worship Policy



Name of Policy Writer/Amendments	Date Written/Amended	Next Review Date
R Denham	September 2015	December 2017
N Paynter	April 2018	April 2021

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Rationale

Collective worship in our school is informed by the 1988 Education Reform Act's stipulation that collective worship must be "mainly of a broadly Christian character. We interpret "broadly Christian" as using traditional forms of worship, i.e. prayer, song, meditation, within a wider theme. Children will worship collectively no matter what faith or cultural background they are from. Collective worship in our school is inclusive. We come together to worship a range of Gods and we are sensitive with our selection and delivery of materials.

Legality

School's have a legal obligation to provide a daily act of collective worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship on religious grounds. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

Purposes

1. to promote the values of the school
2. to promote a feeling of self-worth
3. to develop a sense of community
4. to explore and share own beliefs and the beliefs of others
5. to enable children to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief
6. to celebrate difference and diversity
7. to provide children with an opportunity to become aware of a spiritual dimension to life
8. to enable children to reflect upon matters of importance, drawing upon their own experience and giving them the opportunity to explore the spiritual dimension of that experience
9. to promote open questioning about ourselves, the world and beyond
10. to foster the moral growth of the children
11. to celebrate the achievements of the children and the school

Broad Guidelines

1. A daily act of worship will take place in school each day. This may include in class or whole school assembly.
2. The schools values will be integrated into collective worship when appropriate
3. Children will be encouraged to value themselves; what they do, think and believe
4. Children will worship together and will be encouraged to consider the needs of others
5. Children will be encouraged to express their own beliefs and respect the beliefs of others even if they are different to their own. The six main world faiths will feature within collective worship and will be linked to the RE Scheme of Work where appropriate
6. Children will use religious artefacts during some collective worship times and will be encouraged to discuss any ideas they have. They will be introduced to terms such as "faith" and "symbol" and will be taught the rites that faith groups use when using the artefact in worship
7. Through themes for collective worship difference and diversity will be celebrated
8. Children will be encouraged to think about the world beyond us. They will be encouraged to develop, reflect upon and discuss their ideas about God.
9. Children will use reflection, stillness and meditation to ponder upon issues that are important to them and encourage spiritual development.
10. Children will be encouraged to respond to and ask questions like "who loves me?" and "what frightens me?"
11. Children will be encouraged to decide upon right and wrong and think about the belief systems others use to inform their moral decision making.
12. Children's work or experiences will be used as a focus in some collective worship. Children's good work and responsibility for themselves or others will be celebrated each week.

Monitoring

Collective worship will be monitored alongside SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) At Key Stages 1 and 2 class worship will be planned for by class teachers.

Conclusion

Collective worship is an integral part of the school day. Through it we aim to enrich the life of the school and lives of children who attend. We hope to give the children the skills to respect themselves and others and reflect upon their own understanding of the world and beliefs of others. We aim to make most of our collective worship times broadly Christian but reserve the right to involve other world faiths when appropriate.