

# Salterhebble — — Policy

## Collective Worship

January 2019

The school complies with the requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act regarding Collective Worship. Within the setting we refer to the gatherings for collective worship as 'assemblies'.

As the predominance is placed upon Christianity during collective worship or R.E. lessons, if this is unacceptable to those children who follow a different faith, parents may request that their children be withdrawn from assemblies or R.E. lessons.

Assemblies contribute significantly to the delivery of many important aspects of the Curriculum, including R.E., Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, British Values, and certain aspects of Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.). These are all realms which pupils have an entitlement to experience throughout their education.

An 'act of Collective Worship' will take place every day. There is a weekly pattern of assemblies. The time at which these take place and the form of the Collective Worship varies: whole school, Key Stage or class groupings.

Assemblies are planned on an annual basis with termly themes based around Social, Emotional and Attitude Learning (SEAL). Each week there is a focus for all assemblies. Religious festivals of different faiths are recognised within the annual cycle along with local, national and global celebrations and events and charitable appeals.

On occasions we will invite speakers to talk to us on a number of themes to explore and expand our knowledge of different issues. At times these may be faith leaders but could also be people from different walks of life and the part they play in the community. Representatives from various charities will also be invited to encourage children's thoughts and empathy for others who are less fortunate than themselves.

There are three fundamental principles underlying the provision of our acts of Collective Worship. These principles are broadly outlined below:

- 1) Inclusive in nature
- 2) Broadly educational in content
- 3) Specifically Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural in content.

**INCLUSIVE** – this means that we want our assemblies to:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and religions which exist in our multicultural society and within our school setting. However, the majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe
- be suitable for every child to attend unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the children
- include active participation by pupils

**EDUCATIONAL** – this means that we want our assemblies to:

- reflect the aims of the School and foster a sense of shared values
- be valuable learning experiences and, as such, be included in schemes of work and curriculum planning
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work
- provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal or sporting achievements of the children
- provide an opportunity to learn how to behave in a large social gathering.

**SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL** – this means that we want our assemblies to:

- provide a brief period of relaxation from the busy life of school, when children will have time to pause for thought in an atmosphere of peace and quiet. This involves a quiet and well-ordered arrival and departure
- provide the children with an opportunity to contemplate the spiritual dimension of their life through music, images and words. The writings of the world's main religions, their prophets and followers provide a source of meaningful stories and philosophies for life
- provide an opportunity for private quiet contemplation and prayers
- have a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day
- recognise the similarities and differences between the main religions of the world
- recognise major festivals of the main religions of the world
- emphasise the ethos and values of the school community (WE CARE)
- promote an understanding of 'British Values'
- promote the ideals of democracy to counter and address extremism

Music at the beginning and end of assemblies will be on a half-termly basis and will be the choice of individual staff looking for music from different cultures and styles to allow for a diversity of interests to give the children as broad an experience as possible. During assemblies, children will sing songs that reflect/support the values and morals being explored.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Each day all learners will have the opportunity to participate in an occasion of worship and reflection of high quality.
2. A variety of different opportunities will be used to meet our statutory duty.
3. Strong links will be made between spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and religious education.
4. Collective worship will contribute to pupils' experience of awe and wonder.
5. A good ethos will be created for worship enabling children to enjoy music, singing and celebration.

6. Worship will be used to help children understand and experience the meaning of great religious festivals and holy days.
7. Worship will contribute to community cohesion and will promote learners' spiritual, social and moral education.
8. Assemblies will introduce and promote British Values

## STRATEGIES

1. On some occasions the school will meet corporately to worship and, on other occasions in different groupings.
2. On some occasions worship will be held in classrooms at appropriate times during the day and will be lead by staff and learners.
3. Pupils will learn some well-known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.
4. Worship will be used for celebration and thanksgiving.
5. Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship.
6. On some occasions parents will be invited to participate in collective worship with the school in the school hall or in the neighbouring, St. Andrew's Church.

## OUTCOMES

Pupils will be offered excellent opportunities to experience enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship. They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection. They will learn develop positive attitudes to worship and worshipping communities. Through collective worship learners will grow in spirituality and experience awe and wonder.

**This policy was ratified at a meeting of the CPS Committee**

**on**

**and subsequently approved by the Full Governing Body.**

Signed ..... (Chair of CPS Committee)

Signed ..... (Chair of Governing Body)

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.