

Orleans Primary School



Assemblies and Collective Worship

This Policy was reviewed: January 2022

This Policy will be reviewed: January 2023

Signed: _____ **Head Teacher**

Signed: _____ **Chair of Quality and Standards**

Collective Worship at Orleans Primary

At Orleans Primary School, we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

The collective worship policy at Orleans Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance by the LA through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character', and in recognition of the fact that some of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

Definition of collective worship

We define Collective Worship as a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests whilst also gathering to celebrate successes. It offers all pupils an opportunity to reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' to develop their spiritual, moral and cultural understanding.

Through collective worship our aim is to;

- Provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- Promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it.
- Showcase the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- Help children develop an understanding, both the nature and language of reflective thinking.
- Help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- Support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including cultural festivals.

The contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinctive from curriculum time. However, at Orleans Primary School, collective worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work completed in classes. At time, collective worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy, which informs our practice. To ensure collective worship encapsulates SMSC it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' at their own level.

Throughout the week, our Collective Act of Worship is organised through our assemblies:

MONDAY:

Whole school assembly is led by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher and addresses issues of school and the wider community.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY:

This is organised as a singing assembly for Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. This is led by our specialist music teacher.

FRIDAY:

Is a celebratory assembly for the whole school, which includes celebrating our learning in a 'Merit' assembly. Children are awarded certificates for aspects such as growth mindset, achieving aspects of the curriculum as well as sporting achievements

Class assemblies also take place throughout the year and are shared by the whole school and by the parents. This provides children with the opportunity to showcase the learning they have been doing in class.

Cultural festivals and faith celebrations are also celebrated throughout the year in assemblies.

Parent Helpers and the School

Visitors and the local community are often included/invited to our assemblies to share and celebrate. E.g. the local residential home are invited to our Spring Festival along with grandparents of the children.

Governors are also invited to some assemblies and the Link Governor for R.E will include visiting an assembly as part of their role.

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.

Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend this assembly. Parents who wish to withdraw their children, because of personal choice of religious affiliations are permitted to do so, once they have made formal written request to the school, and this has been agreed by the Headteacher in advance. Discussion will then take place on the practicalities of the request.

The school will inform parents to their right to do this at the start of their child's time at our school and in the transition meetings during the summer term.

JE January 2018