

Eaves Primary School

'Excellence in Everything'



Collective Worship Policy

December 2022

Status	Statutory
Responsible Governors Committee	Governing Body
Responsible Person	Mrs R. Bowles
Review Date	December 2024
Last Amended Date	December 2022

Eaves Primary School is a community school, in St Helens, catering for children aged from 3 to 11. This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from St Helen's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of collective worship which, in community schools, should not be distinctive of the tradition and practice of particular religious denominations.

The legal requirements for collective worship are laid down in the 1988 Education Reform Act and in the Collective Worship Circular 1/94 (1993 – 1994), which was essentially an attempt to explain and enhance the 1988 Act. It states that collective worship: **'Should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes'**. It also states these acts of worship must be **"wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character"** for the majority of the time. They must also be **"appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils"**.

Also, the requirement to promote **British Values** as part of SMSC (Ofsted, September 2014, DfE, November 2014).

Aims

Collective Worship within Eaves Primary School offers opportunities to:

- consider and celebrate the values of the gospel
- have time for reflection, meditation and prayer
- experience the sacred and to develop an awareness of the presence of God in others and in oneself
- encourage an awareness of and a compassion for the needs of the world community
- foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder in all creation
- affirm and develop the individual and to build and encourage community
- develop a sense of enquiry and to encourage a search for human meaning
- explore social, moral and spiritual values in a cultural context
- support students and staff on their personal spiritual and religious journey
- be inclusive of others faiths and beliefs
- promote and encourage British Values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, and Individual Liberty to reflect life in modern Britain.

Principles

Acts of Collective Worship should be:

- ✓ related to the age, ability and background of students
- ✓ designed to actively engage students, and elicit a response
- ✓ resourced and planned
- ✓ memorable and enjoyable
- ✓ an educational activity
- ✓ a sense of occasion
- ✓ flexible and able to respond to special occasions

Co-ordination

In community or foundation schools without a religious character, the arrangements for collective worship are the responsibility of the Headteacher after consultation with the governing body. In foundation schools with a religious character or voluntary schools, the arrangements for collective worship are to be made by the governing body after consulting the head, and must be in line with the schools' Trust Deed or Diocesan guidelines in the case of church schools. SACRE's responsibilities include the monitoring and support of collective worship in county schools.

Withdrawal

In accordance with legal requirements, parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship on religious grounds. Parents should make their wishes known to the Headteacher who will ensure that any pupils who are withdrawn are appropriately supervised while the act of collective worship takes place. Pupils can be withdrawn wholly or partly from acts of collective worship only by parents. Schools should not use this time to withdraw pupils for other activities.

Organisation

Assembly – All children gather in the school hall for a full assembly four times a week. Each assembly has a different focus - core values (Monday) our world and moral issues (Wednesday), singing (Thursday) and celebration of achievements (Friday). These assemblies are led by our SLT team and offer opportunities to learn about how to practice the core values that promote, sing hymns and non-religious songs and mark moments of reflection with a prayer.

Strategies

Prayer Themes

Prayer themes are based around national/international days of awareness. However, they may also link to scripture as well as British Values and cultural capital.

It should be noted that there will be times when the theme is wholly inappropriate - times of celebration, disaster or tragedy will be explored in worship as they arise.

Student Involvement

Students are encouraged to take an active part in the planning and delivery of acts of worship. For example, it is the job of two year 6 children to find a prayer for collective worship in Friday's assembliesassembly.

Visiting Speakers

Visiting speakers form an important, if occasional, part of the collective worship program. They can offer a breadth and variety of worship experiences for students.

Monitoring

Governors are welcome to attend assemblies and when possible, the school community is invited to celebratory masses at our nearby church for events such as Harvest and Christmas.

Training or Advice available: St Helens SACRE is pleased to give advice on collective worship when asked. SACRE will also make known any training events through the usual channels.

Outcomes

The positive educational outcomes of collective worship at Eaves Primary School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness.

Conclusion

Through clear aims and principles, and a shared vision and strategy, we hope to provide students with experiences of collective worship that are relevant, appropriate and life-giving. In so doing we would strive as a community to recognise "the faithful God's initiative of love" and to encourage and enable a true and genuine response whilst encouraging our students of no faith to take the time as personal reflection.