

Collective Worship Policy

South Ossett Infants' Academy

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We understand Collective Worship to be a special act or occasion when, as a school, children (and staff) come together. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. At South Ossett Infants Academy collective worship is set within the context of our daily assemblies. These assemblies, while 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs, and those of no faith, of all members of the school. We also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in our school and the wider community.

AIMS AND PURPOSE

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to enable children to become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and the wider community.
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to create an atmosphere where children can respond appropriately freely and sensitively to religious / spiritual / moral stimulus (including opportunities to worship God if they wish to do so)
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;

Our assemblies are led by different members of staff. We use SEALS topics as a focus of our Collective Worship as well as various Christian and other world festivals and celebrating children's and staff achievements. These opportunities are explored through story, discussion, picture stimulus, song, class assemblies, Happy Book assemblies and visitors. Other collective worship occasions may take place at the local church where parents and friends may join us.

The SEAL (Social Emotional Aspects of Learning) themes include:

- New Beginnings
- Getting on and falling out
- Relationships
- Good to be me
- Going for goals
- Changes

We have links with Churches within the local community and they, along with other visitors where appropriate, lead assemblies during the year. We want every member of the school community to feel happy, valued and respected.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the

school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Approved by governors November 2023

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