

Lower Peover C.E (Aided) Primary School

‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as though working for the Lord’ Colossians 3:23

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In accordance with the Trust Deed and with statutory requirements at our school, collective worship is placed at the centre of the school’s daily life.

2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school, and the wider community. We can reassure parents, however, that our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians but we do expect children to take part in all acts of worship. The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all pupils, whatever their background, is a prime concern to us at our school. However, Christian values are definitely built into our ethos, and teaching.

3 Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship.

Monday: Class based worship
Tuesday: Worship in Song
Wednesday: Praise
Thursday: Whole School
Friday: Worship in church

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and, sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

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- 3.3** The assemblies are normally conducted by the Headteacher, or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.
- 3.4** We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals, and mark the events, of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.
- 3.5** Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Lower Peover School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- 3.6** Each Friday there is a particular worship that parents are invited to attend in St Oswald’s Church. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children’s achievements. Parents are also invited to a class assembly each year.
- 3.7** Governors’ attendance at our worship is always welcome.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2** The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** Evaluation strategies currently used by staff for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:
- Observation of children’s attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions
 - Classroom feedback from pupils - through discussion and writing
 - Parents support and attendance
 - Observation of the children’s behaviour in and around school and to one another

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- An assembly record is kept which includes written evaluations, themes, prayer cards and additional comments. This is kept in the Headteacher’s office.
- 5.2** Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named School Governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The Governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the Governors.
- 5.3** This policy will be reviewed annually.

<i>Staff Meeting:</i>	<i>March 2018</i>
<i>Governors Meeting:</i>	<i>January 2018</i>
<i>Chair of Governors:</i>	<i>James Forshaw</i>
<i>Review:</i>	<i>March 2019</i>