



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Lead person: Standards committee

Agreed staff: Summer term 2020

Agreed (Governors Standards): Summer term 2020

Review: Summer term 2023

Introduction

'Worship' implies the offering of personal devotion and honour. For some, this may mean a personal devotion to God. For others, worship signifies an understanding of aspects of life that are of importance and value.

Collective Worship is 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. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Legal Requirements

The Collective Worship Policy at Pendragon Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. Until 1998, collective worship had to take place on school premises. Now, acts of worship in other venues such as churches are accepted. (School Standard and Framework Act 1998. Schedule 20: 2(6) and (7).

An act of worship is not the same as an assembly, but it may form part of an assembly. An assembly is a gathering of the whole school or part of the school for any purpose.

The main requirements of collective worship are:

- Worship should be held daily.
- It should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
- It should be non – denominational, although it may include material from another faith.
- It may be for different age groups. It need not be for the whole school together.

Aims of Collective Worship at Pendragon School

We intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

In addition Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Pendragon Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship will take place in the hall and is for the whole school although Foundation Stage may not attend at the start of their school career. During this transition period collective worship for Foundation Stage occurs in the classroom. An act of collective worship occurs daily during assembly which will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Planning

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time and is planned by the Headteacher. The majority of the daily acts of collective worship are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. However, in Pendragon Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes.

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events including festivals of Christian and other beliefs. The plan will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

Activities

We aim to use a variety of activities during worship, such as stories, readings, drama, music, prayer, visitors and audio visual aids. Music is used as a focus for the assembly as the children arrive and leave.

Prayer

Pendragon writes a whole school prayer each half term which is linked and relevant to the themes of the collective worship. The children are invited to join together to say this prayer at the end of every assembly. (See Appendix 1)

Timetable

Monday: whole school introduction to the week's events and assemblies

Tuesday: aspirational theme

Wednesday: listening activity

Thursday: songs of worship

Friday: reflection assembly - Friday awards which celebrate REACH, birthday cake, lunchtime awards, Flame - cloakroom award achievement. In addition class assemblies for parents will also take place.

Visitors

Visitors will be welcome to lead assembly from time to time including acts of Collective Worship at Pendragon Primary School in line with our policy. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths. Worship can be enhanced by the

presence of visitors from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures including parents, governors, local organisations and stakeholders. At Pendragon Primary School this includes our local vicar, representatives of the Church of England and Methodist Church, and other members of the local community.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Under Section 71 of the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998, parents have the statutory right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship. Parents are not obliged to give a reason for requesting withdrawal however at Pendragon we encourage parents to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Summary

At Pendragon Primary we believe that collective worship makes a valuable contribution to the life of the school. It is a time when pupils are encouraged to view others sensitively and with understanding and it positively influences the spiritual moral and social development of each individual child.

Appendix 1 – Whole School Prayer

Script inviting the children to join the collective worship:

Now is the time to bow our heads and think about today's assembly.

(Possible reflection point if appropriate)

This is the worship time of our assembly and we need to remember REACH.

If you would like to join in with the prayer you can or if you just want to say the Amen then that is OK.

Template for creating the Pendragon Whole School Prayer:

Dear God,

(Prayer lines linked to the half termly collective worship theme.)

Help us to remember REACH.

Amen

Example Pendragon Whole School Prayer:

Dear God,

Help me to see the whole picture and not just tiny parts.

Help me to listen carefully and not just hear part of the story.

Help us to remember REACH.

Amen

Appendix 2 – Adaptations due to Covid 19 Risk Assessments

As gathering of the whole school in person is not possible currently, alternative arrangements have been put in place for collective worship:

- All classes have a daily assembly in their classroom following the school theme, using resources provided by SLT and the RE Subject Leader.
- Each year group has a weekly assembly in the Hall with the Headteacher or Deputy Head (socially distanced).
- Sometimes Teams will be used in order to allow for whole school collective worship (to meet the aims of our policy to meet together as a whole school).
- The children are still invited to join together and say the Pendragon whole school prayer at the end of every assembly, whether in person or online.
- Additional assemblies are shared online where particular theme days or events are being celebrated e.g. Cambridge United, Anti-Bullying Alliance.
- Local vicar sends video clips to share with the school.
- Year group and classroom collective worship is allowing for greater differentiation to meet the age, experience and understanding of the children.