



Portishead Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Who is responsible?	School Improvement Committee (SIC)
Statutory policy?	Yes
Review timescale	Every 3 Years
Last review	April 2017
Headteacher signature	
Next review	April 2020

Rationale

Portishead Primary School is a non-denominational community school. As such the school will fulfil the requirements of the law through our collective worship policy however our assemblies will also reflect this community status. The School collective worship policy reflects and reinforces the school's vision and values.

Children and staff with a Christian belief will be able to use our moments of reflection for private moments of faith. Other children and staff can use this time reflect on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural content of the assembly.

The common strands are:

- care and support;
- respect and responsibility;
- reflective self development;
- relationships.
- partnership
- achievement

In keeping with these aims, collective worship at Portishead Primary School is planned to:

- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- provide a worthwhile educational experience which takes account of pupils' age, aptitude and family background;
- provide opportunities for staff, pupils and members of the wider community to contribute to the life of the School;
- provide opportunities for worshipping God, reverence, celebration and reflection; enable pupils to reflect on broadly Christian and other worthwhile values and beliefs;
- provide a worship experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths;
- provide pupils with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to".

The positive educational outcomes of collective worship at Portishead 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.

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 School meets this requirement and it is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from collective worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. Arrangements will be made for these children to be supervised in another part of the school.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of collective worship is given at the parent information session.

In community schools collective worship is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'

The programme of collective worship at this School is arranged so that in any one term most acts of collective worship will reflect the school's vision and values as well as the broader traditions of Christian belief.

Organisation of collective worship

The assemblies generally follow the agreed values of the term which are set school staff and are reviewed annually. These values are referred to explicitly in assemblies and used with children across the curriculum. They are human values that are non-denominational. They are rotated to inspire children. Examples in 2016/17 have included Courage, Excellence, Respect, Determination, Equality, Inspiration and Friendship.

- 1. The programme of acts of collective worship** is coordinated by the Headteacher and SLT.
- 2. Key Stage Assemblies are held once a week.** These are taken by key stage leaders, class teachers and visitors.

Visitors have included John Bonner from Gordano Valley Church, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Avon Wildlife Trust, The Portishead Lifeboat and The Lions of Portishead.

3. Class Teacher-led Reflections

Each week pupils meet in class groups for this act of worship. Pupils reflect on statements, thoughts or ideas, provided or approved by class teachers. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection.

4. Whole School Achievement Assemblies and Friday assemblies

On a Monday the school meets for an assembly linked to the published value of the term.

Once a week on a Friday the School gathers for achievement assembly, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Staff and pupils may contribute music, drama and dance.

These assemblies will include the opportunity to reflect in silence on the content of the assembly.

5. Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of collective worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the headteacher.

6. Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship

The Headteacher and senior leadership team are involved on a regular basis with the assembly programme. All staff are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme over the course of the school year.

Policy agreed by Board of Governors on [date]