



Collective Worship Policy

'The aim of the collective worship policy at The Elmgreen School is to develop the spirituality, emotional literacy, ethical understanding, reflection and humanity of all the individual members of its community. As a community we seek opportunities to celebrate our diversity and believe we are stronger for it'

Purpose of policy

To enable the school to set out the aims and principles of worship as well as giving details of strategies that are employed to ensure that Collective Worship is a vibrant and worthwhile activity

To celebrate achievement, challenge prejudice, question stereotyping, enhance understanding of our diverse society

Aims of the collective worship programme

- To provide moments for prayer or personal reflection or thought
- To foster a sense of joy, awe and wonder – and also the ability to cope with moral difficulties, sorrow and loss.
- To acknowledge and celebrate the richness and diversity of British society
- To develop a sense of community
- To explore social, moral, ethical and spiritual values
- To affirm and develop the individual and their self-esteem
- To encourage an awareness of and compassion for the needs of the world community
- To develop a sense of stewardship for the earth

Principles

We aim for Collective worship to be

- Memorable and enjoyable
- Affirming and positive
- Designed to engage pupils and elicit responses
- Resourced and planned
- Flexible and able to respond to special occasions
- Linked to the curriculum where appropriate
- Able to provide a sense of occasion
- Able to provide opportunities for personal prayer or personal reflection
- Inclusive

Most acts of collective worship reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief. However, as a non denominational school serving a community of many faiths and of none, our collective worship will need to reflect this. Most assemblies will conclude with a moment of private prayer or reflection where students and teachers are invited to reflect on the meaning/moral of the assembly within the framework of their own beliefs. In this way we will be able to provide a unity within diversity.

Strategies

The overall policy and coordination by a member of the senior team, in the first instance Justin Russell.

The assembly rota will be organised by a member of the Senior Team, in the first instance Justin Russell.

Each week will have a designated 'word' or theme for the week; this will be to support both emotional literacy and Collective worship. Some examples of such words could be

Freedom
Care
Generosity
Humility
Rights
Tolerance and Open mindedness
Imagination and Questioning
Change
Courage
Fairness
Equality
Strength

The themes will generally be chosen to link to international days or significant calendar or school events to maximise their effect.

The theme or word will be introduced at the start of the week by the tutor and it will be written into student Planners and onto the board, where it will remain as a reminder for the week. It is expected that each day the tutor will make reference back to the word/theme using supporting materials that will be made available for the tutors. The Tuesday session will have a more detailed discussion around the word/theme or a college assembly around the theme. There will be a whole school assembly on Wednesday which will also incorporate the theme.

The supporting materials will take the form of religious stories from various faiths (majority Christian) or ethical positions, poems, parables or sayings from religious, political or humanitarian leaders.

This policy will be reviewed by the Governors on a xx cycle.