



SEA MILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Aspire • Believe • Succeed

Collective Worship Procedure

Statement of Intent

All pupils at Sea Mills Primary School take part in daily collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

The Collective Worship Procedure at Sea Mills Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Local Authority through the Bristol Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). In line with the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and in recognition of the fact that there are practising members of other faiths in the school, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

The Collective Worship Procedure of Sea Mills Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Legal Framework

This procedure has due regard to statutory legislation including 'The School Standards and Framework Act' 1998.

This procedure also has due regard to guidance, including 'Religious Education and Collective Worship' 1994.

Definition of Collective Worship

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.

Aims of Collective Worship

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests.

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Sea Mills Primary School and 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

For the Pupils:

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

- ♣ consider spiritual and moral issues
- ♣ explore their own beliefs
- ♣ develop their own spirituality
- ♣ reflect on the direction of their lives
- ♣ reinforce positive attitudes
- ♣ reflect on what it means to be human
- ♣ consider the wonders and worries of the world

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum which enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in class. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Leadership and Organisation of Collective Worship

The Philosophers Champion will coordinate, monitor and evaluate Collective Worship. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes. Every member of the teaching staff and a range of visitors will lead acts of worship over the school year.

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 but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Collective Worship will regularly link to the Core Learning Skill promoted for that term.

Right to withdraw

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.