

Jesse Gray Primary School

Policy on Daily Collective Worship

**Reviewed by F Moore
January 2019**

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 The aims and objectives 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 line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the themes from the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

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.

2.4

2.5 At Jesse Gray we have a Daily Collective Worship.

Organisation of collective worship

3.1 Daily Collective Worship is not the same as an assembly, though it can take place in the same gathering; Each assembly involves a period of reflection for pupils as well as Daily Acts of Collective Worship being held in the classroom for a shorter period of time.

3.2 Every effort is made to present that theme through media and content with which the children can empathise. Particular thought will be given to:

- The appropriateness of language
- The experiences of the children
- The message to be conveyed
- Links with other areas of the school curriculum
- The use of texts, principally, the Bible

3.3 We conduct assemblies and Collective Acts of Worship 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 or songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 An assembly 'theme' overview is compiled for all Key Stages and this acknowledges other significant festivals, religious and non-religious events.
- 3.7 In September 2015, we introduced a 'Value of the Month' in order to reinforce our school ethos as well as complementing our delivery on British Values. At the beginning of each month, the value allocated, forms that particular assembly.
- 3.8 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. Jesse Gray Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- 3.9 Each month there is a Year Group assembly that parents and carers of are invited to attend. 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.
- 3.10 Governors' attendance at our assemblies 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 and carers 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.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is carried out biannually by the Strategy Gobs committee.