

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY**

**LOW ASH
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

JANUARY 2016

1. Introduction

Low Ash Primary School is a Community School, in the Bradford Metropolitan District, catering for children aged from 3 to 11 years.

This worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with Bradford SACRE's and the local authority's guidance for collective worship.

(SACRE is the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. All local authorities are required by law to have a SACRE to advise on matters concerning the teaching of Religious Education and Collective Acts of Worship and make determinations of cases in which the requirement for Christian collective worship is not to apply.)

In implementing this policy due consideration to equal opportunities, with regard to race, gender, religion and ability, should be ensured with reference to the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 (as amended) and other relevant legislation.

2. Policy Statement

This worship policy:

- a) reflects the law
- b) strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective worship will take place daily and will be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

Collective worship is an opportunity for pupils to celebrate their own achievements, those of the school and the community.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.

Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs that are contrary to their family background.

- Acts of Collective Worship will take place at clearly designated times of day and will take place daily, sometimes as a whole school, or as a key stage, year group or class.
- They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils
- School worship should acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings such as delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing and sorrow
- Acts of worship will **not** assume a shared religious commitment
- They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

3. The Legal Requirements

All maintained schools must provide Collective Worship for all pupils.

- Collective Worship must be offered daily, but may be offered at any time during the school day
- It can be a single act for all pupils, or separate acts for any normal grouping of pupils e.g. a class, key stage, or a year
- The headteacher, in consultation with the governing body, has the responsibility for making arrangements for worship
- Most of the acts of worship in any one term must be of a wholly, or mainly, of a broadly Christian character

- The way in which this 'Christian character' is defined must be decided by each individual school, with regard to the pupils' family background, ages and aptitudes. Low Ash Primary School includes pupils from a range of faith backgrounds including Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Hinduism as well as pupils with no religious beliefs.
- No act of worship should be distinctive of any particular (Christian) denomination e.g. it should not have a strong Church of England content, or Catholic content - it should be 'ecumenical'
- Acts of worship can include worship which is of a broadly Christian character; which is broadly in the tradition of another religion (as long as this is only a minority of acts of worship in any one school term); which contain elements drawn from a number of faiths

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience, should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. If parents/carers wish to withdraw their child they should discuss this with the headteacher. Where a decision is made to withdraw, arrangements will be made for the child to be supervised elsewhere during the act of worship.

4. Content of Collective Worship

Collective Worship may include the following:

- Personal reflection and self-expression
- Exploration of the many values and beliefs which, although Christian, are also reflected in society at large and held as important by members of other world religions e.g. a sense of awe at the natural world.
- Personal recognition of right and wrong (moral)
- The capacity to flourish as a human being (spiritual)

The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and the Low Ash 'Our Values' theme, to provide opportunities for reflection, to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

Acts of collective worship will reflect the broad tradition of Christian belief (reflecting Christianity's multi-cultural and pluralist nature) and promote a positive ethos and community values. They will draw on the values and traditions of other religions as appropriate, helping to promote confidence in a pupil's own traditions and the ability to see value in the traditions of others.

Policy review: This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Full Governing Body or earlier if appropriate.

This policy was reviewed in January 2016

Signed:

Named Governor for Collective Worship

Review date: January 2018

Appendix 1

Key Principles Underpinning Effective Collective Worship

Collective worship should be educational, inclusive and an active as opposed to passive activity.

a) When planning it is a good idea to bear the following in mind:

- A meaningful act of worship needs to be allowed a reasonable amount of time
- Collective worship should engage pupils' minds as well as their hearts and spirits
- There needs to be a sense of occasion for worship
- Worship should have a clear beginning and an end
- Although worship is separate and additional to RE and the National Curriculum there should be links to the wider life of the school
- Worship should be distinct from administration, it is not just 'assembly'
- Language, content and the theology (the way God is described and talked about) need to be appropriate for the age and abilities of children
- Pupils should be encouraged to make contributions to worship
- A variety of resources connected to themes and occasions are useful.....so is a budget for worship
- The systematic evaluation of worship, by staff, pupils, governors, advisors and inspectors is important

b) Worship works best when a variety of experiences are provided.

You may find it useful to adopt some of the approaches below

- Tell a story
- Describe a situation or event
- Drama and part speaking e.g. involve children in telling a story through movement, actions, or words
- Visual aids and artefacts
- Music. Not just singing. A well-chosen piece of music can help create an atmosphere for worship and reflection
- Silence.....important for allowing time for thought and reflection
- Pupil participation
- Visitors. Remember visitors need to have a clear brief, they need to be informed about the traditions and customs of a school and they usually welcome clear feedback.

Collective worship should always engage children in a reflective, open ended experience.

A variety of responses should be recognised and encouraged e.g.

'I am going to say a prayer.....' Some will share the prayer, some will understand the prayer in terms of their own religion, some will think about what it says, some might like to say a prayer of their own. It is not appropriate to assume that all children will join in prayer, but they must be given the opportunity to do so.

Appendix 2

Organisation of acts of worship 2015-16

Monday	Whole school Assembly ‘Our Values’ (Y1 – Y6) or Key Stage Assembly Reflection and/or prayer towards the end of assembly. Event can be marked by having a defined start/finish – can use candle / music / silence to help create the right atmosphere
Tuesday	Key Stage 1 Singing Assembly Start the assembly with a song of worship/celebration – ensuring it is defined as an act of worship with appropriate lead in. Key Stage 2 Class act of worship. Either thought/reflection/prayer
Wednesday	Key Stage 2 Singing Assembly Start the assembly with a song of worship/celebration – ensuring it is defined as an act of worship with appropriate lead in. Key Stage 1 – ‘Our Values’ Assembly Include reflection/prayer/song of worship or celebration.
Thursday	Key Stage 1 Class act of worship. Either thought/reflection/prayer Key Stage 2 – ‘Our Values’ Assembly Include reflection prayer/song of worship or celebration
Friday	Achievement Assemblies (Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) Start with a song of worship/celebration

Foundation Stage – act of worship in class on a daily basis. This can be at any time of the day.