



# Collective Worship Policy

## Introduction.

Leyburn Primary School in North Yorkshire caters for children aged from 3 to 11. This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

## Policy statement

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school. Collective Worship takes place daily and is planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, enabling them to be present and take part as appropriate.

## The aims of Collective Worship in Leyburn Primary School

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs. Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs which are contrary to their family background. Collective Worship will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a **voluntary** response from pupils. Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow, etc. (North Yorkshire SACRE Collective Worship Guidance 2015).

Collective worship does not assume a shared religious commitment. It encourages pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen of a wider community. The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by the headteacher and SLT.

**The legal requirements:** the Education Reform Act 1988. Collective worship takes place each day across the school although sometimes this is in classes, key stages as well as whole school.

## Style and Character

North YORKSHIRE SACRE believes that acts of Collective Worship or spiritual reflection should be meaningful and relevant to all those present. In order for this to be the case, SACRE has identified six principles which schools should apply with regard to daily collective worship and which we endeavour to achieve in our school.

Collective Worship should:

1. promote a sense of community – we have three whole school and one KS collective worship each week. Children say, ‘ We like to meet because we’re like a family.’
2. be educational –our themes support values, SEAL and one-off events, such as Respect, Good to be Me, Easter and the Olympics.
3. promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development – Rights Respecting Schools and a range of faith leaders, representing the local and wider community lead worship
4. be a special time – we have music, quiet reflection and also celebration and funny stories.
5. enable participants to be actively involved – children lead Friday’s Collective Worship and are regularly involved in others.
6. be of high quality – all Collective Worship is planned around termly themes and led by all staff and pupils.

The school provides a daily act of worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. 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. The children agree with this. Parents are asked to contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns. It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case arrangements will be made for those children.

### **The content of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship may include the following:

- Stories
- A visit to the church or other place of worship
- Films
- Plays
- Bible readings
- A song
- A prayer

Children enjoy the opportunity to meet together, celebrate achievement and consider themes and questions which support our core and British values.

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

### **5. Conclusion**

Collective Worship is an opportunity to strengthen the ethos and life of the school and wider community.

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