

LOUDWATER COMBINED SCHOOL

Policy on Collective Worship

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are to:

- Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs;
Encourage participation and response;
- Teach children about other religions represented in our community;
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- Promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Provide an opportunity for children to worship God.

Collective worship

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to reflect on relevant themes and as appropriate 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.
- 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 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.
- While most acts of worship in our school are of a broadly Christian nature, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

- We hold a daily act of collective worship. On a Monday and Friday these are whole-school assemblies. On other days collective worship takes place in the classroom. These acts of worship are focused around our value of the month or our inspirational person. During the spring term class assemblies are held on a Thursday and parents are invited to attend. At the end of each month each class leads a values assembly to which parents are invited. Additional assemblies may be held to provide information about religious celebrations as they occur; these may be Christian or from other religions.
- We conduct assemblies 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, and sometimes to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- The assemblies are normally conducted by the head teacher, deputy head teacher or other members of staff, but occasionally may be led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

- We take the themes of our assemblies from a variety of sources; the traditions of the Christian faith and festivals celebrated by other religions. The main focus for our assemblies comes from the value we are focusing on each month, our inspirational person and the question of the week. Each term a list of planned foci for assemblies is drawn up by the head teacher, however we do recognise that this may need to be changed if there are major current events which have relevance to our children.
- Achievement and class 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.
- Parents are invited to attend their child's class and values assemblies. We encourage this to promote community spirit, and show the school and parents working together in support of the children's achievements.
- Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

Right of withdrawal

- 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 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.
- The Headteacher will keep a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

- Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role the Admissions and Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body.
- This policy is reviewed every three years.

November 2018