



A Co-operative Academy

Rickley Park Primary School Collective Worship Policy (November 2015)

1. Key Values

We have the same chances. We have the same choices.

We know that everyone has something special to contribute.

We persevere and work hard, not because we are told to but because we want to improve.

We stick together for the good of all.

We look after ourselves, each other and our world by taking responsibility for our actions.

We let everybody talk and have their say.

2. Introduction

2.1 The Collective Worship Policy at Rickley Park Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered through the local SACRE.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that daily collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

2.3 The Collective Worship Policy of Rickley Park Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

3. Definition of Collective Worship

3.1 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.

3.2 Collective Worship 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.

4. Aims of Collective Worship

4.1 For the School:

Daily Collective Worship contributes significantly to the co-operative ethos of Rickley Park Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and local and British values (*as outlined in section 1*);
- celebrate achievement and special times;
- explore together the world in which we live; *and*
- develop a community spirit.

4.2 For the Pupils:

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

- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

5. The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

5.1 Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Rickley Park Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes.

5.2 At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

5.3 The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. 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.

6. The Management of Collective Worship

6.1 The Deputy Headteacher (*supported by the RE Leader and PSHE Leader*) will plan the overview, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

6.2 The role of the Governing Body is to ensure that there is provision for collective worship through school assemblies.

7. The Organisation of Collective Worship

7.1 Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom.

7.2 Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 10 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

8. Leadership

8.1 Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

9. Planning Acts of Collective Worship

9.1 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.

9.2 Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. These will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

9.3 Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Rickley Park Primary School.

9.4 Leaders from faiths and non-religious groups within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these traditions.

10. The Act of Collective Worship

10.1 A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

10.2 The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

10.3 If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made before or after the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

11. Withdrawal

11.1 Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. If this option is taken, parents are responsible for putting alternative arrangements in place.

11.2 Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

12. The Role of the Governing Body

12.1 The Governing Body, via the Standards and School Improvement committee, will review the policy every 5 years (*unless legislation changes*) and review its effectiveness as part of their on-going monitoring of the school.