

West Jesmond Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Revision Record of Published Versions			
Author	Revision Date	Version	Status
West Jesmond Primary	12/3/2012	1.0	Annual review and update
West Jesmond Primary	22/3/2014	2.0	Annual review and update
West Jesmond Primary	28/1/16	2.0	Annual review

At West Jesmond Primary School we try to ensure that our worship reflects both the spirit of school worship as intended by recent legislation and the multicultural nature of our City and school. Our approach is consistent with LA policy on school worship.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents. This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

All parents have a right to withdraw their child from the school's daily act of worship, and/or religious education. If you wish to withdraw your child from these parts of school life please write to the Headteacher or make an appointment.

The aims and values of the school form the basis of this policy

Aims: We work with parents to provide an all round education for life.

Within a caring, secure and stimulating environment we aim to bring out the best in every child.

Values: We value and learn from each other's cultures and backgrounds.

We are committed to the all round development of each child

We are all as important as each other.

We support and encourage each other.

We want everyone to feel safe and secure.

We want everyone to enjoy being at school.

We always try our best.

We respect each other and our environment.

We have high expectations.

Aims of Collective Worship(in accordance with LA policy and guidance)

- To make explicit the schools aims and values.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to develop an ability to use reflection, contemplation and as appropriate prayer.
- To encourage and deepen pupils spiritual development through heightening awareness of their own inner life.
- To encourage pupils appreciation of their own personal worth and value.
- To offer opportunities to consider and reflect upon spiritual and moral issues.
- To raise awareness of the diversity of worship within societies and cultures.
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions, difference and diversity.

Implementation:

As a school community we value the qualities of honesty, personal integrity and respect for others with different views. It is important that our language reflects this diversity.

Christianity should not be presented as what the whole school community believes but as what Christians, which make up some of the school community believe.

Prayer should be prefaced with inclusive language e.g. there is a prayer.....some of you may like to join in-others may simply want to think about the words used.

Similarly, moments of silence can provide pupils with the opportunity and chance to pray or reflect.

- Timing:** Approximately 10.10-10.30 am daily other than special occasions and class assemblies.
- Planning:** The planning of Acts of Collective Worship will be co-ordinated by the Head, Deputy and Assistant Head Teacher.
- Recording:** Acts of Collective Worship will be recorded by the person leading the activity.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. Members of the curriculum committee will contribute to this review through visits to assemblies.

Our acts of Collective Worship are seen as part of our balanced and broad-based curriculum. They provide opportunities for children to understand the language and nature of worship and explore their own beliefs in relation to those of others, whilst providing the opportunity to celebrate values and worth of the school community.

Parents do have the right to withdraw children from Acts of Collective Worship but given the inclusive and diverse nature of the activity we do not anticipate requests. Parents with concerns are invited to discuss the matter with the Head teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. Staff also have the right to withdraw.