

Collective Worship Policy

We derive our Collective Worship Policy from our Mission Statement 'Roots to Grow, Wings to Fly, Faith to Flourish'. We aim to give children the opportunities to learn and develop their true potential through their understanding of the Christian Faith and Values.

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 Worship is to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship at Tatham Fells School usually involves all members of the school coming together and participating. Everyone is encouraged to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and as a Church of England School, Collective Worship is normally based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, the worship would be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

2.4 We maintain strong links with the local Church of the Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells, and are part of the Blackburn Diocese.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 A daily act of collective worship is held for the whole school, this is usually in the morning at the start of the school day.

3.2 In our acts of worship we should ensure that:

- the purpose of the act of worship is clear to all present;
- artefacts, visual aids or other foci of interest are used, where appropriate;
- opportunities are given for prayer, reflection and quiet;
- the occasion engenders an atmosphere conducive to worship;
- there is a balance between music, speech and silence;
- children are actively involved as much as possible;

- subject matter is appropriate to the age and experience of the children.
- children and adults take away something to think about and take into their daily life within school and the community

3.3 The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies. Our pupils also lead assembly based on a theme or reading from the Bible together..

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian Faith, often reflecting the festivals and events of the Christian calendar, as well as those from other major World Faiths. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Tatham Fells School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.6 We invite parents to significant assemblies and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. Parents, family members, governors and volunteers are invited to a celebration assembly once a fortnight.

3.7 We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

3.8 Collective Worship takes place in school, except for a small number of festivals and special occasions which take place at The Church of the Good Shepherd, in which we participate. These usually include Harvest Festival, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and the Leavers' Service. Pupils are invited to attend church on these occasions with their parents.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of

Tatham Fells CE (VC) Primary School
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Collective Worship. The Governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the Governors on Religious Education and Collective Worship.

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Signed (Headteacher):

Signed (On behalf of the Governing Body):

Date: February 2018

Review date: February 2021