

BRAYBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship policy

AIMS

“Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs: to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.”

(R.E. & Collective Worship, circular 1/94 DFE p.20, paragraph 50)

LEGAL OBLIGATION

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act all children must attend a daily collective act of worship. These acts of worship should be of a broadly Christian character, meaning they should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief. They can contain non-Christian elements. The right of withdrawal by parents may be exercised and parents wishing to exercise this right should approach the Headteacher.

WAYS IN WHICH SCHOOL ENABLES WORSHIP TO TAKE PLACE

Elements of worship:

- Singing
- Prayer & quiet reflection
- Stories
- Drama
- Music
- Dance
- Bible reading
- Poetry
- Symbols
- Use of senses

PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

- Regular acts of daily worship which may take place within an assembly.
- Festivals and special occasion services.
- Possible Collective worship within a class or group

WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT

- It is expected that at least one member of staff from every class will attend worship to give a sense of school unity.
- Entering and leaving the assembly should be carried out in a quiet manner.
- Staff and pupils should not ‘chatter’ during worship.
- Location and furniture may be changed to suit the nature of worship.

ORGANISATION

At Braybrook School Assemblies and Collective Worship are managed through a single gathering and are as follows:

- Monday – Whole school led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher
- Tuesday – Praise Assembly
- Wednesday – Family Assemblies' in House groups
or Class Assembly to parents /carers
- Thursday – Whole school assembly led by teachers on rotation
- Friday – 'Well Done' Assembly - open for community.

There may be occasions when the whole school may not be able to assemble together and class worship will be held.

PARENTAL RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

Parents have the right to withdraw a child from attending collective worship. They are not obliged to state their reason for seeking withdrawal.

When a parent wishes to exercise this right, to avoid misunderstandings from arising, they will be invited to put their request in writing and to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The practical implication of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship and, if so, how much.

Policy produced June 2008

Approved by the Governors June 2008

Date of review June 2010