Collective Worship policy

Principles and aims of Inspiring Collective Worship

This collective worship policy reflects the principles of the Whole School Aims and Promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

School Aims

- To create a caring, well disciplined and safe learning environment.
- To provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum which enables all pupils to lead a healthy lifestyle, achieve their full potential and encourages a lifelong love of learning.
- To provide equality of opportunity and to foster respectful attitudes towards the environment and others, which recognises and values individual differences.
- To enable all pupils to have confidence in their own ability to be successful and develop as self-motivated learners.
- To develop positive working partnerships with parents and carers, outside agencies and the wider community.
- To ensure that all members of the school community are valued, mutually respected and encouraged to promote high standards of achievement

Collective Worship is educational

- a learning experience of real quality properly planned, prepared, executed and evaluated.
- broadening and deepening knowledge and understanding.
- offering a variety of experiences.
- challenging but not seeking to convert or indoctrinate, neither of which are appropriate in a school setting

Collective Worship is Inclusive:

- relating to pupils’ experiences, concerns and needs.
- affirming diversity and respecting integrity of pupils and teachers whatever their faith or non-faith background.
- fostering a sense of community where people of different faiths and of no faith come together as a school and a family at the same time.

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Collective Worship is Spiritual:

- refreshing the spirit with a time to gather, be still and reflect.
- creating an opportunity to be uplifted out of the everyday and ordinary and to be aware of what is within and beyond ourselves.
- creating an atmosphere conducive to worship while accepting that some pupils will make no personal response.
- offering opportunities for pupils to consider the spiritual dimension and explore their own beliefs and those of others

Organisation, Planning and Recording

Collective worship may

- take place at any time of day
- be arranged for the whole school together or sub-sections of it
- be led by any adult (including outside visitors) or learners; subject to the oversight of the Head teacher or delegated member of staff and in line with the principles in this policy.

Effective Collective Worship is

- planned and recorded
- flexible and sensitive, responding to and reflecting on contemporary events.

Regardless of the leadership of Collective Worship, our school remains responsible for the health and safety of all pupils

Range of Content

Collective Worship is delivered during assemblies and circle time. A wide range of stories from different faiths are shared with pupils, as well as the Value of the month, current stories or biographies of inspiring people or events around the world.

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship which must be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes, beliefs and family
backgrounds of the pupils”. Collective worship at our school is inclusive of pupils’ from all faiths and those without faith.

Collective worship means that all pupils regardless of faith come together to celebrate and reflect on all aspects of life that may affect them. This Act of worship may draw on elements of different faiths but taken over a period of time must be of a “broadly Christian nature”.

Families who send their children to our school are from a range of faith backgrounds, including Hindu, Muslim, Sikh & Christian. In addition, there are some children who are from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of Birches Green Infant School to preach to or convert the children. A school community is not a worshipping community and by law recognises this by requiring 'collective not corporate worship'. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times. Collective worship gives the children the opportunity to respond and reflect from their own faith tradition. This is different from acts of worship that take place in a religious building.

The Head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily act of collective worship after consulting with the Governing Body. Parents of a pupil at our school have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship the school will ensure the health and safety of the pupil. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head Teacher. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

Teachers, including the Head teacher have the right to withdraw from the Act of collective worship.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

The schools use a variety of approaches to ensure that collective Worship is inspiring. These approaches include pupil voice and observations. The information from these activities is used to inform further planning of Collective Worship.

Policy reviewed by Governors

Next review due

Signed _________________________ Chair of Governors Dated _________

Signed _________________________ Headteacher Dated _________

Version 1