

Looe Community Academy

Collective Worship Policy - April 2015

Statutory Duty of the School :

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered students, apart from those withdrawn by their parents. The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging collective worship after consulting with the Governing Body. Daily collective worship must be broadly Christian in nature. It may take place in various types of assembly, tutor time and, sometimes, in lessons.

All parents have the right to withdraw their child totally or partially from Collective Worship and / or RE. They are advised of this right on the Academy website and in the prospectus and asked to contact the Headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents concerning withdrawal is recommended. All staff, including the Headteacher, have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship, following appropriate discussion.

The Collective Worship Policy at Looe Community School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by Cornwall LEA through its SACRE. The policy is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship:

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. It offers all pupils an opportunity to reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of the Policy:

We aim to give students the opportunity to:

- Respond to the worship or reflection of a broadly Christian nature being offered
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Explore their own beliefs and spirituality
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values as encouraged through a programme of community cohesion
- Appreciate a reinforcement of that sense of community at school, locally and globally
- Be aware of spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives
- Develop a sense of awe for the spiritual and physical world around us
- Consider what it means to be a human being in the spiritual and physical sense
- Respond to crisis at a personal and collective level, providing a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses
- Consider the value of Citizenship-locally, nationally and globally
- Appreciate and respond to the questions of meaning, purpose and value
- Develop awareness of difficulties experienced living a life based upon values, beliefs and principles not shared by everyone in the wider community
- Celebrate achievement and inspiration within the school and wider community

- Respond positively to school rules, rights, responsibilities delivered through assemblies, tutorials and the PSHCE programme

Ethos

The collective worship we deliver will recognise and value the cultural, linguistic and belief diversity within our school community and will be in line with our Single Equality Scheme, incorporating our Equal Opportunities Policies. Collective worship is not the same as corporate worship, the latter suggesting a worship of people who have a common understanding of what worship includes and the same beliefs. Collective Worship in a school community involves students and adults whose faith and practice are diverse. Visiting speakers will need to be reminded of this with guidance upon the need not to proselytise. Collective worship will reinforce the sense of the school community, by giving students the opportunity to share and reflect upon things of worth with each other. Those students with a faith will be able to use reflection time to consider issues in the light of their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate. Those without a religious belief will be able to reflect and make a personal internalised response to the same stimulus. The language of invitation to reflect will be open and inclusive, ensuring that no student or adult present feels their beliefs have been compromised, and that all may be able to participate and grow spiritually.

Approach and content:

Collective worship will be delivered through a range of stimuli including:

- Dance music drama and poetry and song performance/participation
- Readings –Bible, other Holy Books and secular resources
- Large screen powerpoint, video/dvd/internet extracts
- Silent reflection / prayer
- Visiting speakers
- Artefacts, Posters etc.

Examples of content from which the school may draw are:

- Celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals, including appropriate end of term Christmas and Easter reflections
- Examples of famous lives of people with faith and other good human beings
- The sense of awe of the world around us
- Response to key local, national and global events
- Providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs whether religious or otherwise
- Consideration of questions you may not think about elsewhere – those big questions of meaning!!
- Good Citizenship e.g. putting things into practice e.g. charities (e.g. Jeans for Genes Day, Christian Aid etc.
- Active Citizenship e.g. Student Council presentations, “mock” elections etc.
- Taking part in famous events e.g. Remembrance Day, Holocaust Memorial Day
- Anti-Bullying ethos

- Celebration or presentations from members of the school community e.g. sports achievements
- Visiting speakers
- Providing a moment for silent reflection
- Appreciation of a piece of music, dance or poetry e.g. National Poetry Day
- An opportunity to sing in our “free” assembly or reflect in our “alternative” assembly
- Stories supporting themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular literature
- Develop and celebrate General knowledge and Curriculum revision through the annual House Quiz Competition
- Positive participation in the school House Ethos

Organisation

The weekly early morning daily Collective Worship programme is currently organised as follows:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday: PSHCE with tutor as well as SEAL, reflection and commitment of the week activities

Tuesday and Thursday: Whole School Assembly

There will also be periodic Year and House meetings.

An audit of assemblies and special events is completed by the Deputy Headteacher once a term. This audit shows a range of themes and events both of a religious and secular nature.

All visiting speakers for Collective Worship must be given this policy before their participation within our programme.

Policy monitoring:

The Collective Worship policy will be reviewed every 3 years by a Deputy Headteacher and the Curriculum Committee.