

Charnwood Primary School



Collective Worship & Assembly Policy

November 2016

Reviewed	Date:	November 2016
	By:	Ms N Jassat Head teacher

Agreed at the Governor Committee Meeting Community Relations	Date:	24/11/2016
	Signed by Chair of Committee: (Acting)	Mr I Lambat

Acknowledged by FGB	Date:	23/02/2017
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Next review	2 Years	November 2018
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Revision History

Date	Details of change
November 2014	Reviewed by Ms N Jassat
November 2016	Reviewed by Ms N Jassat <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction – British Values paragraphs added• Assemblies – Special assemblies paragraphs added• Collective Worship – section added• Planning & Implementation – section removed• Frequency of Assemblies – section removed• Participation – section removed• The Cycle of Public Assemblies – section removed• Document reformatted

1 Introduction

The community Charnwood Primary School serves is rich in its breadth of religious traditions. The following religions are represented at Charnwood Primary School: Islam, Christianity, and Hinduism. The school has sought and obtained a Determination from the Leicester City SACRE (July 2016). Collective worship is therefore not of a broadly Christian character but encompasses all faith groups providing opportunities to celebrate and reflect on all major religious festivals and holy days.

At Charnwood Primary School, we endeavour to educate our pupils to become responsible British citizens. The school community embraces the core British Values of:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance towards those of different faiths and cultures

These values flow through the very fabric of our school ethos. Pupils are reminded of them both explicitly during key stage assemblies and displays, and implicitly through carefully planned units of work in various subjects.

2 Assemblies

The school believes that assemblies are fundamental in promoting the ethos of the school and providing pupils with an opportunity for collective reflection and the consideration of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) issues. In addition, the school uses assemblies in order to celebrate different faiths and their festivals. Through our assemblies we aim to encourage the spiritual and moral development of our pupils. Our assemblies celebrate the religious and cultural diversity of our community.

Assemblies are seen as an important opportunity to address the pupils on matters of moral, ethical and spiritual education. Through assemblies, the ethos of the school is reflected in the public proclamation of its values and ethics. These include:

- Respect for the individual
- The upholding of the sanctity of life
- The love of neighbours across racial, cultural and other boundaries
- Concern for global issues, and the International Dimension
- The importance of tolerance and forgiveness as an essential part of human relations; and the need for understanding

These objectives are achieved in a variety of ways through the imaginative use of story, biography, drama and other presentations by staff, pupils and invited guests. These aim to capture the interest of the pupils and create a positive influence.

Special assemblies are held to celebrate festivals of all major faith groups represented in the school and wider community. Each year group in the school performs one of these assemblies to which parents and the community are invited. At the end of each performance pupils are asked to reflect on the key message learnt from that particular faith story, the universality of the teaching and impact on one's personal life. In addition, the local community is invited to various assemblies commemorating the festivals celebrated by different faith groups.

During key stage assemblies, teachers and members of the leadership team remind children about managing their behaviour and the importance of school rules. Furthermore, they are taught to believe in themselves and pursue excellence through hard work, within a climate of high expectations and support.

Prize-giving ceremonies are also timetabled throughout the year. These assemblies are seen as key opportunities to celebrate success and the achievements of all in activities such as the football tournament and swimming. A special Year 6 leavers' assembly takes place at the end of each academic year.

Furthermore, pupils take part in poppy day celebrations, with the focal point being our WW1 memorial situated in the school hall.

3 Collective Worship

At Charnwood, values of tolerance and respect permeate all areas of school life. This engenders a climate within which pupils feel safe and secure and facilitates the fulfilment of potential.

We expect our pupils to leave Charnwood with many positive and universal values that will act as support structures and points of reference for their journeys ahead.

At Charnwood the purpose of collective worship is to:

- Provide children with experiences which deepen their inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth and uniqueness
- Give pupils a purpose and meaning to life, awe and wonder of the natural world, reverence and respect and a sense of belonging to the community
- Give children the opportunity to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs through participation and response

At Charnwood collective worship consists of each class coming together at the end of the school day or at some point during the school day in order to fulfil these aims, as well as collectively in Key Stage assemblies once a week. This is called 'Special Time'. Children are given some time for silent reflection and an opportunity to record their thoughts and

feelings through writing (e.g. note to self, personal prayer) or through using an artistic medium (artwork) during this time.

There is a different theme every week and teachers can use a variety of different ways to present the theme. This can include the use of:

- Artefacts
- Stories
- Music
- Overhead projection
- Video clips
- Focal points e.g. a picture.

All pupils are involved in a meaningful way. They are:

- Encouraged to ask and answer questions
- Act out a story
- Mime a story
- Pupils' artwork can be turned into a focus for reflection time
- Poems or prayers written by pupils can be read out

All 'Special Time' sessions conclude in pupils having a quiet reflection moment which is accompanied with music, object of focus or visual image. Pupils have a special mini reflection book to record their thoughts, feelings and personal prayers. Resources that are used and photographs of classes taking part in 'Special Time' are saved on the school drive.

All acts of worship have a universal message that is reflected in all faith groups. Pupils will be encouraged to think of their own faith during the quiet reflection time and say prayers that they are comfortable saying during that time. Over time quotes and stories from all faith groups will be shared with all children during collective worship time.