



Collective Worship Policy

Aire View Infant School Feb 2016

Aire View Infant School Elliott Street Silsden
BD20 0AW Tel: 01535 653290

Ellis Stirk

Aims and Purpose

A daily act of collective worship, as well as being a legal requirement, offers a special and important time in at Aire View Infant School in which pupils and staff can share in the spiritual ethos of the school. Collective worship is part of the education of each child and must be inclusive of, and accessible to, all children. Collective worship brings together a group of pupils who may or may not have a religious faith, it provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, "to reach the threshold of worship: but it is up to the individual child to step over".

Collective worship is part of an education which:

- Makes values explicit.
- Challenges pupils' thinking.
- Builds community and personal identity.
- Helps pupils know and celebrate who they are and who they might become.
- Encourages hope and aspiration.
- Marks significant occasions of celebration and commemoration.
- Provides time for reflection.
- Makes a significant contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, particularly spiritual development.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. 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. Collective Worship at Aire View Infant School makes an impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. This takes the form of a whole-school assembly, class assembly, special celebration parent assembly or key-stage assembly. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to follow our Aire View rules and to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings. The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but weekly we have a special visiting speaker from either the local minister or Interfaith visitor or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead (e.g. Silsden Methodist Church). We also invite other guest speakers, such as representatives from, Christian Aid, Barnardos, Christmas Shoebox appeal and community groups such as the local police etc. We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar and other world festival celebrations. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

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. Aire View Infant School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies. Parents and governors are invited to attend special assemblies, such as our special 'Parent Celebration' assemblies which occur each half term.

Right of withdrawal

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. The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Format

- The class and the teacher leading the assembly will be in the hall ready for the rest of the children with quiet calm music playing in the background to set the tone and atmosphere of 'a thinking space'.
- The chairs will be out ready. This is the responsibility of those taking the assembly.
- Assembly will start and finish in the classroom, with children going into the hall without talking and returning to the classroom in a similar manner.
- All adults will stay in the hall unless they are on playground duty or have a meeting.
- Each day there will be a time for reflection or prayer.

Timetable of Assemblies at Aire View Infant School: *(please see Aire View Infant School's Assembly rota for more information on themes and topics)*

Monday: Class Assembly PSHE/topic and world issues

Tuesday: PSHE/SEAL (Parent Celebration Assembly *once a half term*)

Wednesday: Collective Worship

Thursday: Singing Assembly

Friday: Year Group Celebration Assembly

The content of Collective worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils: to promote opportunities for reflection: to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

Collective Worship is an opportunity to the contribution of Aire View Infant Schools ethos and life of the school and wider community.