

Jesmond Gardens Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Date Implemented – January 2008

Reviewed – September 2016

Date of review – September 2018

Our Vision

**To be world-class leaders of learning,
life changing for each and every learner.**

Our purpose

Nurture curiosity

Cultivate enjoyment

Inspire success

Our Promises

Be nurturing: A parent's most precious gift, entrusted into your care. To be looked after as if they're your own.

Be aspirational: Somewhere between exceptional and phenomenal should do it! Expect it of yourself, our children and our community.

Be inspiring: Create that buzz, promote curiosity ... help children find their niche.

Be generous: Make the time to say thank you, to laugh out loud, to be honest with one another, and to help others wherever we can.

Be professional: You're someone who is an expert in their work, someone who can point the mirror at themselves and demand 'How can I get better?' In short - all a success at all we do.

Collective Worship Policy for Jesmond Gardens Primary School.

Introduction.

Collective worship is for all pupils every day at Jesmond Gardens Primary School. It normally forms a small part of an assembly or its entirety. Collective worship has the potential to unite the whole membership of the school and therefore develop a sense of community. Collective worship is part of Jesmond Gardens' contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each child. It is a good time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

The Purpose of Collective Worship at Jesmond Gardens School

During collective worship at our school we are working towards creating experiences, which recognise the integrity and dignity of all members of the school community, both those who adopt a religious life stance and those who do not. These experiences should be educational and stimulate the possibility of a person's inward reflection, which can lead them to the development of an outward and open lifestyle in which they live generously with others.

Statutory Requirements

Collective worship at Jesmond Gardens complies with the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states that "Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief."

However, it is fundamental that collective worship be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the children in the school. Therefore, an act of worship which is "broadly Christian"; need not contain Christian material only.

Such beliefs that are broadly Christian are inclusive to other major world faiths. Examples are God, justice, love, peace, good, evil, greed, poverty, charity, pollution, morality, tolerance, co-operation, selfishness, war and prejudice. Such a wide-ranging list clearly demonstrates the scope that is available to the person leading collective worship. Thus, if a broad and flexible approach is adopted, collective worship will not affect the integrity of anyone taking part at our school but may develop the spiritual awareness of every individual.

Collective Worship and Assembly.

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing but it is usual for an act of worship to take part during an assembly either as a small part or its entirety. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon their life experiences and to seek out answers to ultimate questions as far as their intellectual and spiritual capacities will allow them.

Collective worship at our school endeavours to encourage the development of these areas in every child. It is a time when the individual child can be celebrated for his or her social and academic achievements and a time to foster the positive values held at the school, the local community and the wider world.

An assembly is a gathering of all or part of the school. It is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life, shared pleasure in listening to stories, poems and music, celebration of “good work” and participation in drama and singing. It is important that collective worship is seen as a distinct component from those parts of the assembly solely concerned with administration. Collective worship is a context for allowing an individual to make a spiritual response freely if it is appropriate for them.

Implementation.

At Jesmond Gardens School all teachers will play an active role in leading collective worship.

Parents, governors and other community groups are encouraged to be involved as appropriate, either by occasional participation or by specific invitation.

In order for collective worship to be delivered effectively, careful preparation, good organisation, time, resources and training are all necessary elements. Themes are produced on a termly basis responding to cultural events/British and national events/festivals etc., but also responds to issues that may arise. For example, if there have been issues of lack of respect towards property then this may be the theme for the Headteacher’s weekly assembly. Most assemblies incorporate themes focussing on values, beliefs and morality.

Our assemblies are forever changing as we respond to the needs of our children and as such it is difficult to devise a specific weekly programme as it needs to be flexible, however, in general terms it is as follows: -

Monday	Assemblies take place in units
Tuesday	Assembly incorporating moral values/SMSC A thought for the day should be included. This assembly is led by teaching staff on a rota basis
Wednesday	Assemblies take place in units
Thursday	Celebration of children’s success (writer/star of the week, lottery prizes, birthdays etc.)
Friday	Assemblies take place in units

The outcomes of collective worship at the school are evaluated through the process of teacher observation, pupil feedback, parental feedback, governor feedback from monitoring visits and on the quality of the school’s ethos and communal relationships.

Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship

The main aim of collective worship at Jesmond Gardens School is for it to be meaningful and relevant to all members of the school community for those with a faith background and those with none. It is therefore hoped that no parents will feel

that they have to remove their child from collective worship as this breaks down the unity of the school.

Parents do however have the right to remove their child without any explanation. As a school we pride ourselves on good communication with parents and actively encourage dialogue concerning collective worship so that misunderstanding and confusion as to its nature can be avoided.

The headteacher will ensure that any child who is withdrawn has supervision during acts of collective worship.

Conclusion

Collective Worship at Jesmond Gardens School complies with all recent requirements and wherever possible acts upon advice from relevant educational bodies. We offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence. We offer an opportunity to consider the relevance of ideas, beliefs and values to their own lives and to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a community. Appreciating the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them is also a vital aspect of the work that we do with our children. At our school collective worship also offers the opportunity to interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate achievement and worthwhile or positive behaviour. It builds upon our common life.