

Springfield Infant School

Collective Worship Policy

Springfield is a Rights Respecting School



Article 3- The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning children.

Article 12 – Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters.

Article 29 – Every child has the right to develop their personality, talents and abilities.

A View of Worship

Collective worship should offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence; consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives; think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community and appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them.

Principles

Springfield Infant School believes that collective worship should both support and strengthen what we aim to do in every aspect of school life, offering pupils an opportunity to re-affirm, interpret and put into practice, the values of the school. Our caring ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship, allowing children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express themselves in an appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that all school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.”

At Springfield, we recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider that in addition to ‘nominally’ Christian and some practising Christian families, there are children from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. It is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children; the faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times. School acts of worship should therefore be times of honouring excellence and of exploring and sharing things of value. These times should enable pupils with specific Christian or other faith communities to worship freely if they so desire. This school is not a worshipping community, but rather a worship enabling community.

Objectives

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community;
- to reflect on their own experience and the experience of others;
- to encourage sensitivity to the wonder and mystery of the world and its people;
- grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations;
- to experience and reflect on universal aspects of life – awe, mystery, personal worth, limitations and loss
- to explore values of human concern and their consequences of living – courage, justice, compassion, love, forgiveness, responsibility and care;
- to heighten the awareness of ‘a sense of commitment’ and its consequences;
- to recognise that people hold different beliefs and commitments;
- to express the values and concerns of the school community and the communities that it serves.

Organisation and Management

The school holds assemblies and collective worship where pupils meet together in the hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These assemblies have a variety of aims, content and experience. Teachers supervise the entrance of their class. Recorded music is played at the beginning and end of assembly.

Within these assemblies the daily act of collective worship takes place.

Collective worship is co-ordinated by the Head Teacher who also leads most of the assemblies. Assemblies are also linked to SEAL themes.

Class ‘candle times’ for Collective Worship take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Resources

A range of books and resources are available to support collective worship in the school and are kept in the resources cupboards or library.

Withdrawal Procedures

Parents expressing concern will be invited to discuss and clarify the school’s RE policy and Collective Worship policy with the Head Teacher. Parents, who wish to withdraw their child, will provide materials from home for the child to complete during that time.

Community

The school works with local Churches and on special occasions the school worships in the local church.

Parents are invited to attend assemblies for special occasions.