

Sir John Barrow School Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Sir John Barrow School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education).

The Collective Worship Policy of Sir John Barrow School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed on the school website and 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 worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and for learning about British Values.

“All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. This must reflect the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian.” DFE

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Sir John Barrow School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality

- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Sir John Barrow School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The headteacher and senior leadership team manage collective worship. Their role is to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place, daily, in the school hall or the classroom.

Leadership

Every member of the school teaching staff and some visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Powerpoints record themes, special occasions and events or current and topical issues. This enables the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place and ensures that there is continuity and progression.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be made aware of this policy for Collective Worship at Sir John Barrow School. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

Children at SJB are given the opportunity to listen to/ take part in or share their own prayers during collective worship. Children who do not wish to pray are encouraged to be still and reflect on the key messages or thoughts of the day. This approach is taken toward any religious activity, encouraging all children to be involved in a way that respects their family and personal beliefs/values and the beliefs and values of others within the school community.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself or there will be a clearly defined break between the act of worship and announcement.

Withdrawal

All children/staff are encouraged to take part in the school collective worship.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship without stating a reason for doing so as established in the 1944 Act and re-enacted in the 1988 Act. However, parent/carers are encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher.

At SJB Collective Worship is led in such a way as to allow children/staff of different faiths/non faith to worship or reflect alongside each other, benefiting from experiencing the diversity of belief without having to compromise on personal belief.

H Pemberton, Headteacher, March 2017

Review date: March 2019