



Collective Worship Policy

Agreed by Governors on 23.01.17

Chair of Governors: Sally Birkbeck

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Statutory Policy: No

Frequency of review period: 3 years

Document History

Date	Description
23.3.11	Agreed by Governors
24.3.14	Agreed by Governors
23.01.17	Agreed by Governors
01.01.20	Review Due

Back ground and understanding of Collective Worship

DFES Circular 1/94 contains the current requirement for a daily act of collective worship, the majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character that is "reflecting" the "broad traditions of Christian belief" without being denominationally biased (Education Reform Act 1988). However, head teachers must take into account the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

DCSF Circular 1/94 Annex B expresses the law in relation to the involvement of special school pupils in collective worship. In terms of equality of opportunity for pupils in special schools, unless there are reasons relating to space or equipment that cannot be overcome, then special schools should follow the law in the same way as mainstream schools.

Added to this is the requirement to promote British values as part of SMSC (Ofsted, September 2014, DfE, November 2014).

School Collective Worship should recognise that the school community is a collection of people. Thus, acts of Collective Worship should be sensitive to the collective character of individual schools and to be inclusive the term must be interpreted in a way which is meaningful to the range of communities it serves. The school community will usually include people from a variety of cultural and faith, and non-faith backgrounds.

The term "collective" when used in relation to worship at Delius refers to the gathering together of a school group or groups for worship; it does not in any way suggest an act of worship which involves a group meeting to subscribe to any particular faith or denomination of a faith.

Collective worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs, and should not seek uniform responses from pupils. Collective Worship caters for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals

Collective Worship at Delius

The aim of this collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils at Delius

Special School:

- Worship God (developing a sense of awe and wonder)
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those pupils who have been withdrawn by their parents). Any parents wishing to withdraw their child should contact the Head teacher. At Delius Special School collective worship is usually provided within the classroom setting and at any time during the school day and with any grouping of pupils the school wishes to use (though not faith groupings).

The Head teacher is responsible (under the School standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be mainly of a broadly Christian character.

At Delius Special School collective worship provides a short period of time, anything between 2 to 5 minutes, for pupils to be as still and quiet as possible in order to reflect upon the wonder of God. A candle or a piece of music may be used to help pupils to focus. Where possible pupils are encouraged to think of situations and people they wish to bring before God and regularly demonstrate a keen awareness of the needs of others at such times.

Implementation

At Delius collective worship encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. It both reflects and nurtures the whole ethos of the school. In particular, assembly (the usual context for collective worship) develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

At Delius we respond positively to our own particular needs and see assembly as an educational opportunity with clear objectives:

- To show interest in and concern for members of the school community
- To celebrate special occasions together
- To show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and wider world
- To share appreciation of worthwhile activities undertaken by groups within the school
- To explore and review the variety of values, attitudes and standards manifested in society
- To reflect upon different dimensions of human life

Collective worship, which takes place routinely within the classroom setting and through celebration within assembly

Will:

- Be acceptable to staff and pupils
- Include a variety of elements at different times
- Involve the pupils as appropriate.

- Involve outside Christian organisations which celebrate a diversity of faiths

Prayer Room at Delius

Delius I embraces multi ethnic faiths and diversity of religious groups. The opportunity for staff and pupils from our diverse backgrounds to use our prayer room is one which promotes our approach to collective worship.