



Pencoys Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Review February 2018

Philosophy

Pencoys Primary School is a Community School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students.

At Pencoys School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important platform to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim at Pencoys that worship should:

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child
- Support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils
- give expression to, and reaffirm the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide children with variety in their experience of worship acts. Worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the head teacher who after consultation with the governing body has appointed Fr Peter with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Pencoys School take into account the Children's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The head teacher and governors, on advice from the Worship co-ordinator, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image, moment of silences and reflection etc.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Pencoys School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects

that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Pencoys School.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. Class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

On occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Each person leading worship is asked to record briefly his or her act of worship.

Fr Peter, one of the schools governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school.

Signed.....Date.....