



RYECROFT C. E. (C) MIDDLE SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

1. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

The aims of the school state that the school should "promote a caring community, based on Christian values, which will ensure concern for others, mutual respect, tolerance, goodwill and good personal relationships".

The school also aims to make each child aware of their part in making the school and the community a truly caring society.

Collective worship is important to the life of the school. It helps promote a spiritual life and helps the school achieve the aims.

2. MEETING THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The school will provide an occasion on each day when pupils take part in an act of collective worship. Arrangements may allow the whole school to gather together or for separate acts of worship for pupils in Key Stages, or House groups

The responsibility for such arrangements shall be that of the Governing Body following consultation with the Headteacher. Whereas the Headteacher has the right not to participate in collective worship, the Headteacher has the statutory duty to ensure appropriate arrangements are provided for pupils.

The content of collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief.

Parents may request facilities for worship in accordance with the tenets of a denomination, and reasonable steps shall be taken to accommodate such requests provided that no additional costs fall upon the school. Pupils may be withdrawn from school for alternative worship only at the beginning or end of any school session.

Worship distinctive of a faith or religion other than Christianity may be permitted in school, for all or part of the week, for large or small groups of pupils, provided approval is given by SACRE on receipt of a written request from the Headteacher following consultation with the Governing Body. Such requests shall set out proposed alternative arrangements and relevant circumstances relating to the family background of the pupils concerned. Any determination by SACRE shall be reviewed after five years, or earlier if requested by the school.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship which are distinctive from 'assemblies'.

3. AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship should aim to:

- be appropriate to an educational setting;
- be given appropriate setting;
- provide a sense of occasion separate from other school activities;
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response;
- be respectful of pupil and staff integrity;
- be inclusive rather than divisive, protecting the rights of individuals and minorities;

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- be relevant to the needs of pupils;
- be challenging and enjoyable;
- encourage pupil participation;
- foster a sense of community and shared values;
- provide opportunities for pupils to respond to specific accounts of religious experience and to engage in, or observe, religious activities;
- occasionally contain elements drawn from faiths other than Christianity or from broad human experience which is not explicitly religious.

Pupil participation is very important and pupils of all ages and abilities should be encouraged to take leading roles in planning and conducting acts of collective worship.

4. CURRENT PRACTICE

The Headteacher has the responsibility of Collective Worship co-ordinator. In conjunction with the Vicar (on behalf of the Diocese), the Headteacher shall draw up a coherent programme for collective worship and seek to ensure that all leaders of collective worship, staff or visitors, are aware of the programme and make their contribution relevant.

All acts of worship would normally take place at the end of the afternoon session for a duration of 15 minutes.

Once per week, the pupils assemble in their Houses for collective worship. House Captains are asked to provide a Thought for the week / House prayer

The Headteacher, local Vicar, other staff member or visitor lead collective worship once per week.

On Wednesday afternoons, children meet with their form teacher or take part in key stage worship. When pupils are not involved in worship they complete a reflective diary.

Pupils will have an opportunity on Friday afternoons of gathering for a celebration of their achievements.

The Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring appropriate and sufficient material is available for all leaders and participants of collective worship. Resources are generally kept by the Headteacher in his office but are increasingly found on-line.

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:

Chair

Date