

Rachel Madocks School

Collective Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Rachel Madocks School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Hampshire Local Authority through its SACRE.

The Collective Worship Policy of Rachel Madocks School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in our Vision and Aims alongside our Mission Statement 'Valued for Being Me'.

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 learners an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. During collective worship there must be a time of quiet reflection or prayer, which is an opportunity for children to reflect inwardly in their own way.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Rachel Madocks 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
- experience elements of 'awe and wonder'

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.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at our school.

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 and artefacts 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.

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. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc.)

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Date of policy: June 2017

Date of review: May 2019

Reference documents:

Collective Worship - Guidance Penny Smith-Orr

Hampshire Living Difference RE Curriculum 2016

The Education Reform Act of 1988 sets out the law regarding collective worship and Circular 1/94 provides further guidance

Rachel Madocks SMSC Policy

Rachel Madocks Assemblies Policy