

Claregate Primary School : Collective Worship Policy

This policy pays due regard to statutory requirements in the Education Reform Act 1993 and Circular 1/94 DFE. Also to the locally agreed SACRE Policy.

School Ethos and Aspirations

Our motto “Inspire tomorrow today ...” inspires us to build individuals who are reverent, respectful, thoughtful and analytical about worship. Growing with excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural values is our aim. We want to develop the pupils holistically and value the development of these aspects of a pupil’s life. We use Collective Worship to share common values, to celebrate uniqueness and achievement and to build good community spirit. We allow opportunities for pupils to worship their own God without compulsion, reflect on moral and spiritual issues, to provide quiet time to think deeply with wonder and awe, to reflect on their own lives and moral development and reinforce commonly held attitudes common to all religions. Part of Collective Worship is to reflect on what it is to be human. It can also allay fears and misconceptions in an increasingly challenging world.

While we seek to find commonality, we are also comfortable to recognise uniqueness.

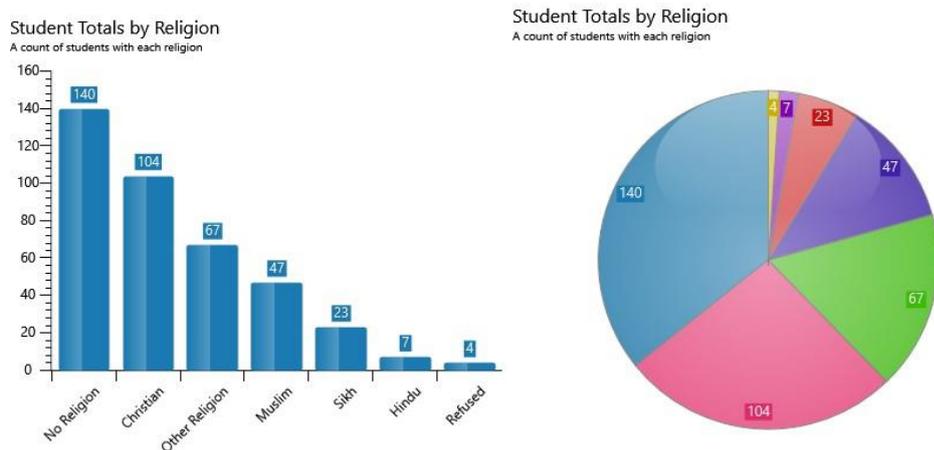
There may be links to other curriculum areas, particularly RE, English vocabulary, Personal Social and Health Education and also discuss positive relationships.

Leadership of Collective Worship

The Collective Worship Leader is the RE Leader.

Our Community

January Census 2021 showed the following religious declarations in our school.



With high mobility, this changes regularly and the largest growth area has been Muslim in the last five years. Our Collective Worship will reflect these backgrounds. Even if recorded as being of a certain religion, the child may not have a good awareness or their faith because the family do not practice. Assumptions should not be made about this.

What is Collective Worship?

DFE define it as “Daily single act of collective worship or separate acts of worship in different age groups to promote their spiritual moral and cultural development”.

DFE 1994 “Worship must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and convened with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power”. “Collective worship is not “assembly” although it can be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school”. For example, morality, kindness and individual qualities and uniqueness.

Local SACRE arrangements define the main world religions that are covered in RE, and Collective Worship will follow the same structure.

Often, we will link our moral spirit to charitable endeavour and we focus on one main charity per year in order to focus moral imperatives and be able to study that cause in depth e.g. Romanian Street Children, Comic Relief or children’s charities.

What will the general content of Collective Worship Be?

Our Collective Worship is “broadly of a Christian Character” and broadly in the tradition of other religion and number of faiths, which reflect the faith backgrounds of the community and families that we serve. Wherever possible, we will find commonality and links between different faiths, especially in moral teaching.

Our locally agreed RE syllabus reflects religious traditions in Wolverhampton and are mainly Christian and they take account of teachings and practices of other principal religions.

Relevant themes are religious celebrations and specific special times of the year e.g. ceremonies of remembrance or thanksgiving e.g. Harvest Festival.

Highlighting examples of people of faith and good human beings, including from Black History and a range of main world religions.

Highlighting exemplary behaviour of pupils, or highlighting particularly good work of staff or people in our community. These are moral themes.

Cultural stories, traditions and why people believe what they do.

Where visiting speakers talk to pupils including faith leaders, the school will request a plan and vocabulary that will be used to ensure that it is relevant, age appropriate and lawful and reduces controversy. Where a faith leader is involved, it will be instructional rather than prayerful, giving the option for non-participation e.g. making the sign of the cross would not be relevant for all pupils.

Where does Collective Worship Take Place?

We timetable Collective Worship so that pupils have the opportunity to engage in Collective worship in their own classrooms, within year groups when classes come together, within a Key Stage and in a large group e.g. Year 1 to 6 in the hall. Occasionally we may gather as a whole school, but not necessarily for Collective Worship purposes.

Right to Withdraw

We uphold the parental right of withdrawal either partly or wholly. Reasons do not have to be given and the school will supervise the child during this period. We also support the right for pupils to be present but not participate. We will seek written instruction from the parent / carers to ensure

clarity. We may provide alternative worship, unless doing so would replace statutory non-denominational collective worship rules. However, it may not always be possible to find the staff to run a separate lesson, or find someone with a particular knowledge of a particular faith background, if parents request very specific content.

Good quality Collective Worship

All methods of teaching that are common to classrooms are available in line with age, aptitude and interests. Relevance is always going to ensure greater participation e.g. a moral dilemma in school or a child friendly issue in society.



Plug in. Create the atmosphere for learning or reflection with music. A focus such as a candle, flowers or artefacts help.



Switch on with a story, drama, article, message or moral dilemma appropriate to the age group. Use visual aids and artefacts where appropriate. Singing will help with engagement.

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Light up – participate with reflection and thought, possibly about a God or teaching. Individual prayer, poem or guided reflection may take place and this can be active or silent. Discussion is relevant in group sizes conducive to this.

Complaints

Any complaints about Collective Worship should follow the schools Complaints Policy on the website.