



KINGSGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Headteacher: Liz Hayward

Date last approved by the Governing Body: September 2021

Review date: September 2022

Kingsgate Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the interests of children and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Aims

Collective worship in a school offers opportunities for pupils and staff to come together to reflect on the meaning of beliefs and values held in the wider community, concerning matters of ethical and philosophical importance of deep significance to people. This is not the same as the worship of a faith community.

Determination

The faith backgrounds of the children at Kingsgate Primary School means that it is not appropriate that acts of worship 'should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. (A requirement of Section 7(1) of the Education Reform Act 1988). On 28 February 2017 SACRE granted the school a determination (alternative arrangements) which lifts this requirement. This will be reviewed again before February 2021.

Collective worship should

- Be appropriate for and to include all pupils subject to parents' right to withdraw pupils.
- Be sensitive to any reluctance on the part of pupils to take an active part in worship.
- Provide opportunities for silence to "pray" privately according to own faiths and traditions, and for reflection.
- Show respect for the values and aspirations that religious traditions have in common and to the values and aspirations of those without a religious faith commitment.
- Support the personal spiritual development of every pupil without giving offence.

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for the school to give expression to the school ethos.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to explore these experiences which cause people to respond to the higher ideals of life.
- To introduce pupils to the forms that worship can take by using some of these in an educational context.
- To provide pupils with opportunities to explore some of life's fundamental experiences such as a sense of fascination, wonder and mystery.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to discover and explore together the experiences and ideas that others have found to be inspirational.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to widen their emotional responses and to deepen their ability to be sensitive to sincerely held spiritual beliefs.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to reflect, respond and express.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to come together as a community and to be reminded of the values, rules and responsibilities of belonging to such a community.

- To provide opportunities for pupils to share times of celebration and joy, of sadness and loss.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to ask or reflect upon questions at the heart and root of our existence.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to develop respect for others.
- To develop pupils' awareness of important religious festivals and traditions.
- To develop pupils' knowledge, concepts and skills that contribute to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Practice

Teachers have class assemblies three times a week.

There is a phase group assembly once a week.

Features of school collective worship

Our school collective worship typically features:

- a sense of enquiry, exploration and open-mindedness
- a celebration of meaning, purpose and direction
- an awareness of life's joys and sorrows
- an awareness of life involves choices, right and wrong, justice and injustice
- a sense of uniqueness, self-esteem and identity
- a sense of oneself and others as feeling, thinking persons
- a sense of inter-dependence with the natural world and with each other
- an awareness of the nature of commitment and how this affects a person's values and attitude to life
- an awareness that religious faith is based on the concept of deity
- an awareness that religious faith includes a sense of reverence, devotion and adoration and a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- a sense of transience and constant change
- a sense of pattern, sequence and order
- an awareness of paradox and a sense of there being more to situations than meets the eye