



Shottermill Junior School

Collective Worship Policy

Governors' Committee Responsible:	Children & Learning Committee
Nominated Lead Member of Staff:	Mrs Goodyear (RE Leader)
Status & Review Cycle:	Statutory (Every 3 years)
Next Review Date:	Autumn 2020

Statement of Principles and Beliefs

Shottermill is a non-denominational Junior School with approximately 280 pupils on roll, aged from 7-11 years. The children come from a variety of backgrounds and there is a broad social mix and a range of faiths and cultures represented within the school.

Daily collective worship is a statutory requirement. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. This right is only exercised very occasionally and an application to request withdrawing a child from RE or Collective Worship, must be made in writing to the Headteacher at the earliest opportunity. Staff who work within the school, also have the right not to participate in acts of Collective Worship but must uphold the Core Values and moral purpose defined by the school:

Respect	Trust	Love of Learning	Communication	Creativity	Excellence
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Worship at Shottermill is largely of a broadly Christian nature but will also reflect the range of cultures, religions and values that are relevant to our pupils in our locality. Collective Worship is also an important tool to promote and develop **British Values** through exploring the following key areas:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Shottermill we believe that our daily Collective Worship is a very important part of the school and contributes to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is a time for the whole school, key stages, year groups or classes to meet and share together in a positive, caring atmosphere.

Collective Worship in Our School:

Spiritual

- provides opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- provides opportunities for the expression of joy, wonder and praise
- provokes further thought on spiritual and moral topics
- provides opportunity to experience awe and wonder

Educational

- relates to children's experience, environment and curriculum
- is challenging, quality learning experiences with invited guests or experts
- celebrates children's achievements
- facilitates children's appreciation of each other's differences, improves their conduct and behaviour and develops a positive attitude towards other cultures and society in modern Britain.

Relevant

- provides opportunities for broadening knowledge of the **Core Values** or whole school **themes** on a weekly basis
- through positive stories, current affairs and real life examples, allows children to have a context for SMSC development
- facilitates opportunities to participate and respond
- is relevant to children's age, aptitude and needs

Aims of Collective Worship at our School

- To encourage a reflective approach to life.
- To introduce children to various aspects of religious worship (prayer, hymns, music, drama, art) in an honest and open atmosphere.
- To develop a sense of personal responsibility towards our community and the wider world around us and a sense of commitment to each other.
- To celebrate together what is good about the school and community and to foster a sense of acceptance and fellowship.
- To increase sensitivity towards, and awareness of, the search for meaning in the face of life's mysteries.
- To create an atmosphere where those who wish to worship may do so.
- To recognise that people hold different beliefs and to value and encourage respect for different cultures.
- To develop awareness and understanding of religious festivals and how they are celebrated.
- To define the uniqueness of the school in relation to its **Core Values**.
- To prepare children for modern life in Britain.

Organisation of Collective Worship at our School

Collective Worship at Shottermill Junior School can be delivered in a range of ways. The expectation is that children will come together for a whole school assembly in our school hall, at least twice a week.

Further assemblies and reflection times are built into the week but times and arrangements are sometimes flexible to accommodate occasional timetable variations, such as when visiting specialists are leading these. In all instances, children will experience Collective Worship every day using any of the following approaches:

- Class assemblies, led by the class teacher, visiting guests or the children themselves.

- Reflection times either as a whole class or year group led by an adult, which may include quiet time to contemplate, sharing of a poem, quote or prayer.
- Parent invited class assemblies in front of the whole school.
- Year group or upper / lower key stage assemblies held in either the school hall or Dance Studio.
- Special assemblies where visiting speakers from local organisations are invited to come in to focus on a special theme such as NSPCC.
- A team from our local church St Stephen's come at least once a term to lead a school assembly using the PSHCE Seal programme and sometimes focusing on Christian festivals such as Harvest or Easter.
- Children sometimes visit other places of worship to celebrate festivals and participate in Collective Worship such as a Carol Service at Christmas.