



Collective Worship Policy

As a school we follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. We interpret worship as:

‘A form of human activity when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us.’

Plans for collective worship are based on the broad principles and values of Christianity, exploring themes that are appropriate to pupils whatever their background or personal beliefs, whether Christian or not.

We aim to develop social and moral values, spiritual awareness, a knowledge of Christian values, beliefs and celebrations, and an awareness of other beliefs and traditions.

We aim to create a special atmosphere when we meet for Collective Worship, enhanced by music and supported by the agreed behaviour expected of children for assembly times as detailed in the Tavistock Charter.

We aim to provide time for children to reflect on and explore their own experiences and feelings and develop a sense of belonging for the school community to mark and celebrate special occasions and achievements and for celebrating and reflecting on things that we value and care for.

We will achieve these aims through ensuring that each act of Collective Worship provides opportunities to:

FOCUS on a particular issue introduced through a stimulus such as a story, piece of music, poem, drama, artefact, picture etc usually linked to the appropriate theme from SEAL.

REFLECT on the theme through discussion

RESPOND in a variety of ways e.g. singing or experiencing a quiet time for thought or prayer, listening or joining the discussion.

DEVELOP a sense of awe and wonder, recognising and celebrating the values held to be important in our school community.

- An act of Collective Worship will normally take place each day either as a whole school or class and will be led by the Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher or other member of staff. ‘Celebration Assembly’ on Fridays is led by various members of staff and pupils.
- Each assembly begins with the recitation of our school creed. (see below)

- A brief moment of collective worship takes place at the start of each lunch sitting when Grace is sung.
- Rights to withdraw – Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or parts of Collective Worship. Such requests should be made in writing to the Head teacher.
- Children who miss the usual Collective Worship due to an alternative class activity such as swimming should take part in a class based act of worship.

Tavistock School Creed

This is our school
And we are family
Let us promise together
That this shall be a place
Where we love and respect on another
As brothers and sisters.

Let us promise together
That this shall be a happy place,
Where we can learn
About the world around us
And reach our goal
To Achieve Happily Together.