



Downsell Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

February 2016



Aims Of Downsell Primary School

“A School With Great Expectations”

At Downsell Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment, which offers opportunities:-

- For everyone within the school to reach their full potential and develop self-worth, self-confidence, the ability to take responsibility for their own individual actions and resilience.
- For everyone within the school to have a sense of wonder, an enthusiasm for learning and help children to develop as independent thinkers and learners with enquiring minds.
- To encourage and develop a respect and understanding for others.
- To develop all partnerships, small and large, from the individual parent to the wider community and beyond to support children's learning.
- To give children access to a broad and balanced creative curriculum to attain the highest possible standards in relation to prior attainment through assessment and learning.

Equal opportunities

At Downsell Primary school we believe that every child is entitled to equal access to a broad and balanced engaging curriculum, regardless of race, gender, class or disability. We positively celebrate diversity and difference.

Inclusion

- We are committed to promoting a learning and teaching environment for all that embeds the values of inclusive educational practices.
- We aim, through a child-centred approach, to ensure that education is accessible and relevant to all our learners, to respect each other and to celebrate diversity and difference.

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship collectively;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- to celebrate and learn about multi-faiths.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 The headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the headteacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community and wider community.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also celebrate and hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold acts of collective worship in our school. This forms part of assembly, which is normally a whole-school/Key Stage assembly taken by different staff members based on the SEAL (Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning) theme of the week.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We encourage children to learn that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully and participate fully in reflections and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. We encourage children to participate and share their ideas, views and experiences.

3.3 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local community members or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. Visitors promoting secular activities such as the Library Service also take assembly.

- 3.4** We take the themes of our assemblies mainly from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. The themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance and have a termly assembly calendar on class notice boards and in the staffroom.
- 3.5** Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Downsell Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children and staff in assemblies.
- 3.6** We invite parents to class assemblies on a regular basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- 3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this.
- 4.2** The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

Date of next review: February 2018