
Orchard Vale Community School Collective Worship September 2023



Requirement

All pupils in maintained schools, academies and free schools should take part in a daily act of collective worship. This should be wholly or mainly of a 'broadly Christian character' unless the school applies for a 'determination'. Collective worship can take place in groups other than whole school at any time of the school day. Schools should ensure that relevant information is available to parents regarding arrangements for collective worship and the rights of withdrawal. It is the legal right of parents to withdraw children from worship, where the school will make alternative provision. Pupils can only be withdrawn from school for alternative worship at the beginning or end of any school session.

Aims

Collective worship aims to promote spiritual, moral and cultural development. At Orchard Vale Community School collective worship aims to ensure there is a time which is meaningful and educative for the children and should foster a sense of awe and wonder of the world in which they live. We accept that worship is generally understood to imply the recognition of a supreme being. With the words and activities undertaken we aim to recognise the existence of a deity. Collective worship provides an opportunity for the school to pause from activity, gather and reflect upon the beliefs and values which bind Orchard Vale community together. It also allows those with a religious commitment the possibility of entering into worship and those of different views to reflect deeply.

Orchard Vale Community School provides an opportunity during collective worship for pupils to:

- appreciate the important values that we share; respect for life; caring; tolerance and non-violence;
- foster a sense of fellowship and belonging;
- share values of a Christian nature;
- build up the sense of group identity, fostering concern for the needs of each other;
- give pupils the experience of being still or silent;
- opportunities for prayer or meditation;
- reflection time to include reading holy texts or other writing which brings out religious/moral themes;
- music, drama and dance;
- provide an opportunity for celebrating times of success or joy.

We realise the need for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating practice within collective worship.

Collective worship at Orchard Vale Community School

We recognise the need for creating a 'sense of occasion' for collective worship but also appreciate the difficulty of meaningfully discussing spiritual/moral issues. We hold Key Stage assemblies, in class assemblies, daily reflection time and whole school weekly celebration assemblies. To support the delivery of collective worship we use Simply Collective Worship to support the delivery and monitoring of themes over a 4 year rolling programme.

We also have close links with the local churches and encourage visitors to lead or contribute to acts of collective worship.