



Argyle
Primary
School

Collective Worship Policy 2023-2024

Revised Date: Autumn 2023
Agreed by: FGB 30.11.2023
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Introduction

Argyle is a non-denominational community school. We welcome families from a range of faiths and of no faith. The work of the school is underpinned by a clear vision –The Argyle Adventure and Argyle Code and by an explicit set of values:

Cycle 1 - Excellence, Kindness, Compassion, Respect, Drive, Responsibility, Self-Control, Positivity, Empathy, Collaboration and Courage.

Cycle 2 - Fun, Love, Honesty, Friendship, Kindness, Patience, Wisdom, Thankfulness/Gratitude, Self-belief, Fairness, Forgiveness.

Our curriculum is designed to inspire and motivate all children –regardless of their background and to ensure that all children develop curiosity and respect for all faiths and for the views of those with no faith.

Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Act provides for both R.E. and collective worship. They are separate activities, although they can often reinforce each other. At Argyle we follow the agreed syllabus for R.E. as set out by the local authority. The governors of Argyle ensure that an act of collective worship takes place daily and that, in accordance with The 1988 Education Act, this is “wholly or mainly of Christian character” without being denominationally biased. The school ensures that each act of collective worship is appropriate to children’s ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Aims of Collective Worship

Though often contained within an assembly, collective worship is a separate activity from assembly. Collective worship provides an opportunity for members of the school community to pause from activity, to gather, to remind themselves of, and to reflect upon, the beliefs and values which bind the school community together. It also allows those with a religious commitment the possibility of entering into worship and those with no religious commitment to sense what worship is and to reflect deeply. In this way we aim both to affirm and to protect the integrity of all members of the school community.

In particular, collective worship at Argyle Primary School:

- provides an opportunity for all members of the school community to stop activity, to pause and to reflect on important issues;
- fosters a sense of fellowship and belonging;
- fosters a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of the natural world;
- builds up the sense of group identity, fostering concern for the needs of each other;
- gives pupils the experience of being still or silent;
- provides an opportunity for celebrating times of success or joy;
- provides an opportunity for meeting at times of sadness or sorrow;
- provides an opportunity for highlighting and reflecting upon core school values – excellence, kindness, compassion, respect, drive, responsibility, self-control, positivity, empathy, collaboration and courage
- offers the opportunity to mark significant points in the year, such as festivals and school events.

At Argyle, Collective Worship contributes to the *spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of pupils* in the following ways:

Collective worship contributes to the spiritual development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of things;
- experience times of quiet inactivity to counterbalance the activity which generally marks the rest of the school day ⁽⁶⁾; and
- hear stories and words from religious and other literature which suggest that there is more to life than meets the eye.

Collective worship contributes to the moral development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- reflect on matters concerning right and wrong;
- hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness or right are exemplified; and
- learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong.

Collective worship contributes to the social development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- gather with others for a common purpose;
- share times of joy and times of sadness with others; and
- learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting.

Collective worship contributes to the cultural development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- hear music from a range of times, places and cultures;
- reflect upon ideas concerning beauty and that which is pleasing to the eye and ear; and
- appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond.

Collective worship contributes to the intellectual development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- learn and to engage with their minds;
- have ideas and beliefs confirmed or challenged; and
- reflect upon the nature of learning and education.

Organisation

At our school we hold a daily act of collective worship which takes place either in class (during wellbeing time) or in a larger group (key stage) usually within an assembly.

The present pattern of assemblies and wellbeing time is:

Day	Group	Time	Venue	Lead by	Scope
Monday	class	8.50 - 9.15	Classrooms	Class teachers	Well-being time. A start to the week that children will look forward to. A group or paired activity or game + a reflection related to The Poem of the Week, the current value or an event/date of national importance.

Tuesday	Key Stages	8.55 - 9.15	Top hall- KS2 Middle hall KS1	Headteacher/Deputy fortnightly Headteacher/deputy -fortnightly	<p>Values/Community events or National themes, e.g. Comic Relief, Children In Need +related reflection.</p> <p>The Argyle Code and Argyle Adventure. The chance to deepen understanding of the schools aims and mission and to make links with the curriculum and extra curriculum activities.</p>
Wednesday	Mixed age groups of approximately 10 children	8.50- 9.15	All spaces	Class teachers, TAs and SLT all lead a school forum group.	<p>School Forum -an opportunity to build relationships across Years 1-6, for all pupils to be heard and for older children to take responsibility and set a positive example. Children play a circle time game and discuss a question or topic of the week</p>
Thursday	Key Stages	8.55 - 9.15	Middle Hall – KS1 Top Hall KS2	SLT	<p>First Thursday of every month -Class Council -Active citizenship, engagement, participation. + a related reflection.</p> <p>Other Thursdays rotating between – In the News, an opportunity to share more information upon events in the news or in our school + related reflection, Celebration – a chance to reward</p>

					pupil efforts or Class Assembly – a chance for pupils to share their learning.
Friday	Class	8.55 9.15	Top Hall	Music Specialist	Singing - appreciating music/Experiencing joy/Learning songs related to Values +related reflection.

Elements of Collective Worship

Acts of collective worship at Argyle include a range of approaches. Some of these are:

Music/Songs

Music can help to set the scene and create an appropriate atmosphere. It can be listened to, so helping pupils to reflect on a theme. It can be played or sung. At Argyle we avoid using specifically religious songs, which refer to a religious figure, deity or character.

Reflection techniques

During collective worship, music and a range of techniques can be used to help create an atmosphere. These include using art or artefacts; using flowers, plants or natural objects; lighting a candle to begin a story or to provide a focus of attention; using the interactive whiteboard, OHP, slides or video. All children are asked to bow their heads and listen to the reflection. All children are invited to say 'Amen', which we teach means 'I agree' at the end.

Preparation for Collective Worship

All children are expected to come into and leave the space for collective worship absolutely quietly. Staff assist the lead person by ensuring children are in their seating order according to our policies and ensuring children follow the routine for listening, i.e.:

- eyes on the speaker
- hands and bodies still
- minds awake
- mouths still
- ears listening

Children enjoy leading reflections. We expect children to take responsibility for their conduct through collective worship and for staff to intervene discreetly to remind children of correct conduct when necessary.

Visitors

Argyle encourages visitors to lead or contribute to acts of collective worship. Local people, figures in the community, as well as local faith leaders are invited throughout the year.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the statutory right to withdraw their children from school worship. This can be

- Total – that is where the children would be wholly excused from all acts of collective worship

- Partial – that is, where children are excused from certain kinds of collective worship only or from certain elements within the act of collective worship.

At Argyle we believe that collective worship has a unifying role and, although parents do not have to justify requests to withdraw, the headteacher will speak to the family in person, informally to ensure:

- that there is no misunderstanding about the nature of collective worship in general;
- that they have not been misinformed about the school's practice in particular;
- where possible a partial rather than entire withdrawal.

The governors and headteacher would aim to ensure the appropriateness of its practice.

Link between School Curriculum and Collective Worship

At Argyle RE and collective worship are understood to be different aspects of school provision. We understand that different legislation surrounds each aspect. However, we accept that children's learning does not happen in isolation and that learning in RE and collective worship will often be interlinked and enrich the spiritual, social, emotional, cultural, moral and intellectual development of the learners.

Determination to Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

In our school the dominant faith group is currently Muslim. Many children attend Muslim Madrassas each evening and at the weekends. Governors are satisfied that as the collective worship draws from world faiths there is no need to apply for a determination to withdraw from broadly Christian worship.

Whilst teachers are contracted to attend assemblies this duty is subject to their freedoms under the 1944 Act not to attend collective worship or the collective worship element. Staff wishing to discuss this should see the Headteacher.