



Collective Worship Policy



July 2024

Review date:	
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Statutory Guidance

Every learner in a special school should attend collective worship, unless withdrawn by a parent/carer in so far as is practicable (1988 Education Reform Act, School Collective Worship).

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher (School Standards and Framework Act, 1998) to arrange collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

Collective worship should be wholly or mainly Christian in nature, but the precise nature is dependent on the backgrounds of the learners, their age and their stage of development.

Statement of Intent

At Cann Bridge School, we recognise the importance of collective worship as an integral part of our school life and our learners, have the opportunity to join in daily acts of collective worship through whole school gatherings or within their class group.

Through collective worship we will:

- Foster a sense of community and belonging among our learners and staff.
- Promote spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.
- Encourage reflection, empathy, and respect for others.
- Celebrate diversity and inclusivity.
- Create a safe and nurturing environment for learners with special needs.
- Develop awareness of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship.
- Develop awareness of other beliefs, traditions, celebrations and patterns of worship.
- Develop understanding of global issues.
- Reflect on our school values

Collective worship provides an opportunity for our diverse community to come together, reflect and celebrate our shared values and beliefs whilst respecting the individuality and unique needs of our learners.

Implementation

All learners at Cann Bridge participate in collective worship; this is accessed in different ways, dependent on the individual needs of the learner.

We acknowledge that our learners have a range of abilities and needs. Our collective worship sessions will be adapted to accommodate these needs, including the use of visual aids, sensory elements and differentiated activities to ensure the full participation of all learners.

Frequency and Timing

The frequency and timing of collective worship sessions will be determined based on the needs and preferences of our learners, with consideration given to their attention spans and comfort.

Content and Themes

- Our collective worship content will be diverse, inclusive, and reflective of universal themes such as kindness, tolerance, respect, and community.
- Learners will be actively involved in the selection of themes and content whenever possible.

- Music and singing form a fundamental part of the assembly structure to encourage further responses and active participation by learners; our school assembly is therefore presented in a multi-sensory way ensuring it has meaning and relevance for each learner within the school.
- Assemblies are further designed to promote British Values, Cann Bridge's core behaviour values and the importance of being a good friend and citizen.

EYFS and Key Stage 1

In the EYFS and Key Stage 1, learners access Collective Worship through daily Nurture Breakfast followed by a PSHE themed circle time (Key Stage 1) where learners will begin to explore our school behaviour values and wider behaviour values. At the end of each day, learners attend an end of day celebration and reflection where they celebrate their own achievements and the achievements of peers through daily wow awards. On a Friday, learners celebrate their achievements during a whole class assembly where learning is celebrated through our 'We Cann' awards, which are later shared with families. Learners are encouraged to respect and celebrate their own achievements and the achievements of their peers. Through continuous provision, learners are encouraged to work collaboratively and respectfully alongside one another; enhancing their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

Learners in Key Stages 2 to 4 access a weekly themed assembly on a Monday morning. Themes will be informed by SMSC including world and local events, curriculum topics, and a varying degree of implicit and explicit references to Christianity but there will also be consideration of and reference to other main faiths. All religions practiced by learners at Cann Bridge will be represented at this time and all the whole school community is expected and encouraged to be tolerant and inclusive.

At the beginning of each day, learners will come together for Nurture Breakfast as a class group to plan their day and to participate in listening to stories or completing activities focussing on PHSE and British values.

At the end of each day, learners will come together for whole class reflection where they celebrate their own successes and those of their peers. On a Friday, learners celebrate their achievements during a whole school assembly where learning is celebrated through our 'We Cann' awards, which are later shared with families.

Key Stage 5

Learners in Post Bridge College come together within their individual tutor groups at the end of each day to reflect on their achievements each day and to discuss their feeling and concerns. Learners in Post Bridge College will also have a celebration assembly on a Friday afternoon to celebrate their achievements across the week where their learning is celebrated through 'We Cann' awards.

Whole School Assembly Plan

The Health & Wellbeing Lead will develop a yearly overview of the topics and themes for Monday assemblies to ensure a broad and balanced coverage. This will be saved on the school system and a copy is available by the Foyer laptop.

Guest Speakers and Contributors

We will invite guest speakers and visitors from various faiths and beliefs, (wherever possible), to provide a broader perspective, always ensuring their awareness of the special needs' context and the need to tailor this appropriately to ensure that it is accessible, following the schools safeguarding policy and procedures.

Impact

The collective worship offer will encourage all learners at Cann Bridge to develop ideas about their own and other people's world views. Learners have a safe space to talk through situations and /or issues. Learners reflect on their own values and beliefs and work towards gaining a greater understanding of Cann Bridge core values and wider British Values.

Monitoring

We will regularly assess the impact of collective worship on learners' spiritual and moral development, using feedback from staff when looking at assessment where collective worship threads through the curriculum and, considering learner voice, and parental contribution. These views will support to make improvements as needed.

Parental Rights

Parents/carers are permitted by law to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of RE and collective worship that is delivered at Cann Bridge School.

If a request is made to withdraw a learner, it will remain in place until it is withdrawn by the parent or carer or the learner turns 16 and opts in. Parents/carers are not required to provide a reason for withdrawal from RE/collective worship.

When a learner is withdrawn from RE, it is on the grounds that parents/carers provide their own religious education to the learner.

We respect the rights of parents to withdraw their child from collective worship and will provide alternative activities for those learners.

Expectations of staff

The member of staff leading the collective worship assembly should be well prepared and ready to greet learners and staff. They need to be mindful of other people's views and beliefs and deliver all collective worship without bias. Activities and resources should also be ready and available.

Learners should be encouraged to attend assembly as calmly and quietly as is reasonable, and supporting staff should model the expected behaviours of listening, sitting quietly and focussing on the adult delivering the assembly.

Adults should encourage learners to join in where appropriate, and model sitting when required.

Training and Development

Staff will receive training on how to conduct inclusive and accessible collective worship sessions.

Ongoing professional development opportunities will be provided to staff to enhance their knowledge of different faiths and beliefs.

Review and Revision

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains inclusive and responsive to the unique needs of our special needs school community, in light of any monitoring