

Paulet High School	School Policy Document		
Document Title	Collective Worship Policy		
Document Status	Approved	<i>Approved Date</i>	25th January 2011
Document Owner	Assistant Headteacher (ECM)	Review Date	01.02.2013
Audience:	Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Religious Education & Collective Worship

Vision Statement

Collective worship in our school is essentially an educational activity. For all pupils the act of collective worship should make an effective contribution to their search for meaning and to the development of their own moral and spiritual values.

Paulet High School fully endorses the guidelines as laid down in the Education Reform Act 1996, as amended by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 which says:

"each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship."

Staff and pupil attendance.

Collective worship is the responsibility of the Headteacher in consultation with the Governing Body. At Paulet all staff will be involved through participation in the assemblies. The organisation of the "Theme for the Week" with tutor groups is the key mode of delivery for daily collective worship and must be carried out daily by Form Tutors

- Collective worship should include all pupils unless parents exercise a right of withdrawal

- The Human Rights Act 1998 states that a parent's right to have their child educated in accordance with their own religious and philosophical convictions must be respected throughout the entire education programme.

- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship and are not obliged to state their reasons for doing so. The school will provide appropriate supervision for any such pupils, who will do private study or private worship.

The school office and subject leader for Religious Education keep a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

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The principles and aims of collective worship at Paulet High School

- The law can only dictate that schools must provide a daily act of collective worship. Worship is a response. The opportunity for worship is an invitation but the acceptance or rejection of that invitation is the individual's choice.
- If the integrity of pupils and teachers is to be respected at all times, no assumptions should be made about their personal commitment. The school is not a place of worship in the everyday sense of this term and the worship will differ from that of a faith community.
- Emphasis should be upon evoking a response from pupils which leads to reflection and thought. Central to achieving this objective is the importance of creating the right atmosphere.
- Worship should be 'wholly or mainly' of a broadly Christian character reflecting the varying traditions of Christian beliefs without being of any particular Christian denomination.
- Themes are carefully selected to plan for collective worship which is based on the broad principles and values of Christianity and which is appropriate to pupils, whatever their background or personal beliefs, whether Christian or otherwise.
- Therefore, exploring themes such as perseverance, team work, character, planning, honesty, conflict and suffering, although not exclusively Christian, can be considered broadly Christian but they are also central to the teaching of a range of religious traditions.
- Not every act of collective worship needs to be "broadly Christian" providing that the "majority" of them over a term, can be described in this way.
- As well as providing explicitly Christian material, we incorporate resources from a variety of religions in both our 'Theme for The Week' booklets and our close ties with representatives of a range of faith traditions to contribute to our curriculum.

Assemblies and "Theme for the Week"

Our aim is for every pupil to participate in an Assembly (either full, key stage, year or form) at least once a week.

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On days where there is no assembly, form tutors will lead with the "Theme for the Week" to take place in the classroom. The weekly themes generally complement the SEAL values. Alone, a "Theme for the Week" is not an act of worship but becomes so when pupils are offered a space for reflection or an opportunity to develop spiritually. Music is sometimes used at the start of assembly to create a sense of special time and place

Any staff who need support in carrying out this role will be given guidance by the Head of Year or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Planning Collective Worship

The ingredients of an effective act of worship should include opportunities for:

- Exploration of a theme or focus
- Reflection
- Celebration
- Pupil participation

We conduct our assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. It is expected that everyone will be quiet, thoughtful and to listen carefully.

The Heads of Year normally conduct worship, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

The school invite parents and governors to attend our assemblies on special occasions 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.

We plan our worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Worship offers 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

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valued and all achievements are recognised. Paulet High School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in worship.

Over the course of a year we:

- develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world around us
- celebrate the beauty of living things
- search for meaning
- affirm positive values (e.g. decency, honesty, self-sacrifice, courage, human rights)
- are aware of negative behaviour (e.g. cruelty, injustice, exploitation)
- explore right and wrong
- reflect on broader and more lasting concerns
- value things of worth
- give thanks
- experience a caring and compassionate community
- explore emotions, thoughts and ideas
- promote a sense of friendship, acceptance and unity
- encourage responsibility for making personal decisions
- celebrate achievement and special occasions
- share and experience similarities and differences

It is the responsibility of the designated Assistant Headteacher to decide on the focus for the week and to write the "Theme of the Week". Each teacher leading an Assembly will then organise their assembly by referring to the designated focus guidelines laid down in this document.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Resources to help staff in preparing acts of collective worship have been provided by the Assistant Headteacher. The Assistant Headteacher keeps copy of all "Themes of the Week". Heads of Year are responsible for evaluating the form activities. Representatives from each year group will be invited to fill in an evaluation sheet once a year.

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Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Review date 01.02.2013

Religious Education

Religious education is part of the basic curriculum and is provided for all Paulet High School students except for those pupils withdrawn by parental request.

The purpose of Religious Education is to help pupils to understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

For further details, please refer to the Religious Education schemes of work.