

Reflection Time/ Collective Worship Policy

Approved by: Full Governing Body
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Knowledge



Spark



Humanity



Grit



Team

Introduction

Our community in Leeds is rich in its breadth of religious traditions. Many faiths are represented at our school as are the wishes of families with no religious affiliation.

The school has due regard to the Leeds agreed syllabus on RE and Collective Worship in planning the opportunities and experiences we offer children. We teach using the supporting materials for the agreed syllabus and cover reflection time in a range of ways, both in class and in school assemblies. Reflection time encompasses all faith groups providing opportunities to celebrate and acknowledge major religious festivals and holy days. At Clapgate, every pupil takes part in reflection time every day.

The purpose of Reflection Time

The main aims of reflection time are as follows:

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole.
- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To provide opportunities to develop an understanding of diverse faiths and cultures, thus contributing to the promotion of fundamental values.
- To allow for relevant and topical issues to be responded to sensitively.

Assemblies should:

- Provide children with the knowledge and insight into values and beliefs that enable them to reflect on their experiences in a way which develops their spiritual awareness and self-knowledge (spiritual).
- Teach the principles which distinguish right from wrong (moral).
- Encourage children to relate positively to others, take responsibility, participate fully in the community and develop an understanding of citizenship (social).
- Teach children to appreciate their own cultural traditions and the diversity and richness of other cultures (cultural).

The principles of Reflection Time

At Clapgate all assemblies/acts of reflection time are based on the principles that they should be inclusive, educational and spiritual.

To ensure assemblies/ reflection times are inclusive we aim to ensure that they:

- are pupil-centred, related to children's own experience and relevant to children's concerns
- acknowledge diversity
- involve children as active participants
- meet the needs of the children
- foster a sense of community

To ensure assemblies/ reflection times are educational we aim to ensure that they:

- are learning experiences
- are well-planned
- relate to other curriculum activities
- provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides

- celebrate educational achievements
- are consistent with the aims and values of the school

To ensure assemblies/ reflection times are spiritual we aim to ensure that they:

- provide a time to reflect
- be a special time – conducive to worship
- enable children to feel calm, relaxed and secure
- include a variety of words, music and images
- provide an opportunity for children to collectively take part in reflection

As a result, the main aims of Reflection Time can be summarised as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for an experience of daily reflection
- To provide opportunities for children to reflect on the values of the school community and the community it serves.
- To deepen and widen children's emotional responses.
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different responses.
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder, interdependence with the natural world, pattern, sequence and order, self-worth and value of others
- To develop awareness that life involves choices of belief, attitude, behaviour and relationships and that there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life.

Planning and implementing Reflection Time

Where possible, links are made to whole school initiatives or issues of national importance, e.g. remembrance and anti-bullying. The school will also periodically invite representatives of different faiths from the community to participate in assemblies. Assemblies are planned on a weekly basis.

The themes:

- promote spiritual, cultural, social and moral development,
- provide opportunities to celebrate religious festivals and share stories from various religions,
- enable the children to reflect on matters of importance,
- offer the children the opportunity to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music-making, hymns, drama, role-play, the visual arts, silent thought and discussion.

The assembly plan across school is as follows:

- 1X weekly upper school assembly
- 1X weekly lower school assembly
- 1X weekly celebration assembly for each phase in school

On days where there is no assembly, collective worship/ reflection time takes place in class. This can be done through discussing the current news, focusing on a key question, or sharing moral stories or dilemmas.