



Collective Worship Policy

Aiming High, Achieving Together

Date of issue	Spring 2 2025
Review Date	Spring 2 2028
Signature of Headteacher	L.J. JAMES
Signature of Chair of Governors	G. DOVE

It is a legal requirement for all schools, except education centres and nursery schools, to provide Collective Worship for *all pupils, every day*.

All schools must 'Collective Worship should offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence; consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives; think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community; and appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who holds them. Collective worship also offers an opportunity to reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides time to celebrate the various achievements of members of the community that are held to be of worth.' (National Curriculum Council, Spiritual and Moral Development, A Discussion Paper, 1993)

Aims of Collective Worship

- To develop an ethos where all feel safe, respected and valued as individuals;
- To recognise a supreme being e.g. God;
- To help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them;
- To offer children a spiritual dimension to their lives and relationships and to allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life;
- To provide a regular time and opportunity for reflection and prayer with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism;
- To think of the needs of others and develop a sense of community;
- To celebrate the achievements of others within the school community;
- To mark and celebrate special occasions;
- To support and express the shared values of the school;
- To promote opportunities for spiritual, cultural, social and moral development;
- To promote awareness of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship.

Principles of Collective Worship

All Acts of Worship in our school will:

- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school;
- Be 'wholly or mainly of broadly Christian character' but also sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school;
- Be reflective of other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Monday - Class assembly / JIGSAW
Tuesday - Whole School Singing
Wednesday - Whole school teacher led assembly
Thursday - Whole school teacher led assembly
Friday - Whole school celebration assembly led by Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher to which parents are invited.

There will also be occasions when we visit the local Church for specific festivals e.g. Harvest, Christingle and Easter.

We will:

Provide space and time for children to reflect on the broad traditions of Christian belief through:

- discussing Christian values in stories, poetry, pictures etc.
- thinking about key figures from Christianity (Jesus Mother Teresa, Gandhi)
- focussing on Christian festivals and celebrations
- sharing stories from the Bible, both Old and New Testaments
- inviting local community leaders to lead assemblies

Provide opportunities for children to explore aspects from other faiths including:

- intercultural issues;

- festivals from other faiths;
- stories with a moral issue;
- events in school and at home;
- celebrations of everyday life.

Creating an Appropriate Setting for Worship

In order to create an appropriate atmosphere for Worship, distinctly different from other school activities, our school creates a focal point through:

- playing appropriate music to begin and end the session
- the use of a symbol to signify the time for reflection or prayer e.g. lighting the candle, joining their hands
- a time for silence;
- a time for thinking;
- singing a hymn or song

Staff also consider:

- Timing - Do the pupils and staff feel rushed, pre-occupied or at ease?
- Sounds - Make a careful selection in order to suit the theme or focus.
- Layout - Are the staff and children comfortable and able to see and hear?
- Venue - When the weather permits, good use can be made of the school grounds.

The children are invited to say 'Amen – I agree' at the end of any prayer said by the adult. They are non-denominational.

Presentation

A variety of approaches are used in exploring concepts:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Stories | Poems |
| Radio/TV broadcasts | PowerPoint |
| Artefacts | Pictures |
| Discussion | Drama |
| Sharing children's work | |

Planning

- The programme of weekly Collective Worship themes are agreed and planned for the year by the RE Curriculum Manager
- There are master copies in the RE Curriculum Manager's file and on the school staff network file called 'Assemblies'
- Purchasing resources for Collective Worship is linked to the RE budget

Monitoring and Review

- The RE Curriculum Manager, the Senior Leadership Team and a governor will ensure that the content and quality of acts of worship are of a high standard.

Right of Withdrawal

- We expect all children to attend assembly.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of Collective Worship under Section 9 of the 1988 Education Act. They are not legally required to say why they wish to withdraw their child or to inform the school in writing. A member of staff or the parent will supervise any child who is withdrawn. With the parents' agreement, a child could be present during collective worship, but not fully take part e.g. say a prayer. Such a possibility would need to be discussed with the parents. The school is not required to provide alternative collective worship, but parents may provide an alternative if they wish. Parents can take their children off the school premises for alternative worship as long as this does not interfere with the child's education provision.
- All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective worship, but the Headteacher maintains statutory accountability in the school.

The Use of Visitors in Collective Worship

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes the local Reverend is invited in to lead an assembly. Occasional visitors representing local and national charities may also attend.