



Collective Worship Policy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. H.', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Chair of Governors:

Date: November 2022

Review: November 2026

Rationale

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- take part in collective worship
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered.

Collective Worship Defined

In an educational context, worship reflects the values, aspirations and faith of the people worshipping. It is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none – in this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

Whenever possible we follow the principles that:

- Assemblies should be inclusive
- Assemblies should be educational with curricular links.
- Assemblies should contribute to the religious education of pupils.
- Assemblies should have a sense of occasion.
- Assemblies should use materials that cover a variety of religions and cultures.
- Assemblies should, on occasions, involve people from the local community.

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been **withdrawn by their parents**). This is usually provided within a daily assembly but can also be done within individual classes or groups of children. This may be particularly appropriate for younger children in primary schools. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any maintained school's act of worship. They are not obliged to give a reason.

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Implementation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each afternoon assembly, held in the hall, which may be a whole-school assembly, a singing assembly, an

assembly led by a group of children, or a Celebration Assembly in which children share good work. On days where the school hall is commissioned (e.g. school photographs) an act of worship will take place in class groups.

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally lead assemblies, but sometimes local clergy, other representatives of local religious groups, or visitors from community organisations, e.g. RSPCA, are invited into the school to share the leadership of the assembly.

Assemblies offer 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 valued and all achievements are recognised. Our Friday 'Celebration Assembly' reflects the accomplishments and learning of the children.

Songs/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of music from to draw upon – taken from a variety of cultures and types. We sing a variety of songs and hymns. We select our songs/hymns carefully to match the theme.

During the course of the year, a number of special assemblies are undertaken to reflect both the traditions and liturgical calendar of the Christian Churches (e.g. Christmas, Easter), and the religious traditions and calendars of all other faiths that may be represented in the school and the wider community (e.g. Eid, Chinese New Year, Hanukkah).

Special assemblies are also held to mark significant days in the calendar, such as Martin Luther King Day, World Peace Day, St. Patrick's Day etc.