

Collective Worship Policy

The school recognises, as with all areas of the curriculum, collective worship should be a valid educational experience, and that, as set down in the 1988 Education Reform Act, the nature of the collective worship is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Definition

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues, themes and interests. It offers all children an opportunity to worship through engaging, relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Worship can be defined as reflection, awareness, response, celebration, exploration, learning from the experience of others, devotion, adoration, respect for, awe, wonder, stillness, peace and mystery.

Aims

- During collective worship we aim to:
- Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all children.
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian character as well as reflect our school vision and values.
- End on a shared reflection. This could be this could be a prayer, something to think about (a quote/question/etc) or a silent moment.
- Develop a community spirit.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together.
- Provide opportunities in which our children can interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions, the wider community.
- Offer opportunities to perform through readings, singing, dance or drama.
- Represent our staff team by having all teachers lead collective worship.
- Represent our children by having all classes take part in a class collective worship that is celebrated with parents/carers.
- Invite members of appropriate organisations to share in or lead collective worship.
- Represent our children and staff by ensuring all collective worships are conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.
- Include relevant content that is suitable for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of our children.
- Meet in a variety of groups, such as a whole key stage, a phase or as a class.
- Have high expectations on the behaviour of our children and staff during collective worship, ensuring they are respectful of the content.
- Ensure parents who want to withdraw their children from collective worship (under Section 9 of the 1988 Act) have the time to discuss this fully with a relevant member of staff to make the best, informed decision.

Organisation

Our collective worships are organised as outlined below:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
THEME - SLT 9:00 KS2 2:40 KS1	PHASE: KS1 LKS2 CLASS: UKS2	PHASE: UKS2 CLASS: KS1 LKS2	SINGING 9:00 KS2 2:40 KS1	CELEBRATION 9:00 KS2 2:40 KS1

Times may vary depending on school activities and staff availability. Any change to the planned overview will be shared appropriately on the termly timetable.

If a visitor is leading a collective worship, they will be supported to organise appropriate content and will have clear instructions as to when and where their collective worship is taking place.

Content

The content of a collective worship may reflect any of the following:

- marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect a diversity of faiths
- examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings
- stories supporting themes from a range of sources and cultures
- response to key local, national and international events
- providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs
- putting things into practice e.g. supporting charities
- providing a moment for shared reflection
- communicating and celebrating our school vision and values
- celebration of successes of members of the school community
- performances or presentations from members of the school community
- input from visiting speakers

Prayer

Reading a prayer can be appropriate as long as the integrity of all those present is respected. Prayer may be part of the period of shared reflection with children invited to participate in prayer if they wish.

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all children and staff in collective worship. For example, when using a prayer from a particular faith, this will be introduced with sensitivity and children and staff will not be required to say or affirm prayers which they do not believe.

Right to Withdraw from Collective Worship

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from parts or all acts of collective worship. Any parent considering this is encouraged to discuss it with a relevant member of staff to ensure the best, informed decision is made.

Date Reviewed:	September 2021
Next Review:	September 2023