

Collective Worship Policy



Review Date	September 2024
Review Frequency	2 years
Date for Next Review	September 2026
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Intent Statement

The aim of collective worship is **to develop and promote pupils social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.**

Aims

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship;
- to teach children about Fundamental British Values and how it impacts on lives both nationally and globally

Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly (unless included in right to withdrawal).

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base some of our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

We base our collective worship assemblies on Fundamental British Values and their themes:

- mutual respect
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- rule of law
- individual liberty
- democracy

Through the teaching of these themes we consider religious events in all faiths with Christianity being the main focus throughout the school year. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies or lessons that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organization of collective worship

Worship may find expression in many different forms: in music, song, dance, drama, in words of praise, in prayers, reading and teachings, in listening, in thoughtful silence, in meditation, in contemplation of icons and symbols, in the service of others, in the passing on of one's beliefs, in the lighting of a candle and other symbolic actions.

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each assembly, in classes, year groups or a whole-school assembly.

Friday whole school assemblies continue to be a very important weekly event in the life of the school. The collective act of worship is special as it is the only time in the week when the whole school comes together. Representatives from local churches, as well as the Salvation Army, visit us regularly to lead whole school assemblies. After the worship part of the assembly, we publicly celebrate the children's achievements.

An Upper School and Lower School assembly is planned for half an hour each week. In order to ensure that there is no repetition or duplication of themes each assembly follows a plan, which is updated annually and planned by SLT. Each assembly is led by class teachers on a rolling programme.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The collective worship that we deliver will recognise and value the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population and will be conducted within our Equal Opportunities policy.

Collective worship reinforces the school community, by giving pupils the opportunity to share things of worth with each other, within a reflective space.

Those pupils who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider issues in the light of their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate whilst those pupils who don't have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal, internal response to the same stimulus. They will also be able to enter into dialogue with those of faith, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each other's stances.

The language of invitation to reflect will be open and inclusive, ensuring that no pupil or adult present feels their beliefs have been compromised and ensuring that they are able to participate and grow spiritually.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Parents who choose to withdraw their children are required to state this in writing annually to the Head Teacher. The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and Review

The subject leader reviews this policy on an annual basis.