

# Collective Worship Policy

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#### Introduction

Collective Worship is seen as an intrinsic part of school life allowing us to promote and engender the valued and attitudes we believe to be important. These values and attitudes in turn shape the spiritual, moral and cultural dimensions of the pupils.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that 'Every school must by law provide religious education and daily collective worship for all its pupils, with the exception of those pupils who are withdrawn from these activities by their parents.' Section 7(3) of the Act qualifies section 7(1) by providing that within each school term the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, but it is not necessary for every act of worship to be so (see also paragraph 124). It is open to a school to have acts of worship that are wholly of a broadly Christian character, acts of worship that are broadly in the tradition of another religion, and acts of worship which contain elements drawn from a number of different faiths.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling
  those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and
  to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship
  means for others;
- To enable pupils to approach the threshold of worship by instilling in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation;
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life;
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community;
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school;



- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community;
- To acknowledge and pay respect to difference and diversity.

# **Learning Opportunities**

Collective Worship will provide pupils with opportunities for:

- Individual response and reflection.
- Listening and thinking about the world, themselves and others.
- Introducing pupils to the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and beliefs.
- Sharing in experiences of e.g. sadness, excitement, joy, thankfulness, togetherness and challenge.
- Silence, stillness, mediation, contemplation and, if appropriate, prayer.
- Celebration of the shared values in the school community

### **Organisation**

Collective Worship may be Whole School, Key Stage, Year Group or Class based and should be timetabled into the school week. They may be held in school hall, classroom or other suitable venue. Staff will take turns in planning and leading Collective Worship.

## **Planning**

To provide structure across the school, a thematic approach for Collective Worship is taken.

The theme for each week is planned in advance and shared with staff.

Each school has its own School Prayer which should be recited daily.

### **Monitoring arrangements**

This document will be reviewed every **3** years but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.