



**ELTHAM**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SINCE 1814

## Collective Worship

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Signed:



## **Collective Worship**

**Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with your God**

We believe this policy should be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos, enables consistency and quality across the school and is related to the following legislation:

- Education Act 1944
- Education Reform Act 1988
- Education Act 1993
- Education (Special Schools) Regulations 1994

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

- Religious Education and Collective Worship (Circular Number 1/94) (DfE)

We have a legal requirement to provide religious education and daily collective worship for all our registered pupils but with the exception of those pupils who are withdrawn from these activities by their parents.

We are an explicitly Anglican Christian school and our worship forms a key element of this distinction. We are aware that there might be some who object to any form of collective worship but until the law changes it is still a legal requirement to hold acts of daily worship and we use this time to build community and trust as we endeavour to answer the question “What does the Lord require of you?” to ‘Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with your God’. It is also used to promote pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness

We understand collective worship to be a special act or occasion whose main purpose is to show reverence to God and involves pupils and teaching staff (and at times parents, governors and other visitors) coming together every day.

We will ensure that collective worship, which can take place at any time during the school day, will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief without being connected to any particular Christian denomination.

We are aware that when we are planning collective worship we must by law that we take in to account the ages of the pupils, their aptitudes and their family and religious backgrounds.

We acknowledge that parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and we will, therefore, agree to any such requests. Alternative supervised arrangements will be made for all pupils excused collective worship.

We believe that in our daily collective worship when members of the school come together, we invite God to be present and create an occasion which expects a variety of responses, including worship, prayer and liturgical response. We understand our time of worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence, reflection and relationship with Almighty God.

However, we believe we must conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. Therefore, throughout the academic year we will hold collective worship that reflects other world religions as we strive to ensure that all children, those of other faiths and of no faith.

We would like everyone to take an active part in our collective worship but we are aware that teachers have the right to withdraw from the religious element of collective worship. We acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We acknowledge that children's entitlement to acts of collective worship should not be affected by gender, culture, race or special needs. We will ensure that there are no barriers to this equality of opportunity.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy.

## **Aims**

- To ensure that all pupils take part in a daily act of worship of a wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- To provide all pupils with an opportunity to worship God.
- To show pupils how to worship by participating and responding.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To promote and embed a common ethos with shared values and positive attitudes.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

## **Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure**

## **Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure collective worship takes place in the school;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- nominated a designated Equalities governor to ensure that appropriate action will be taken to deal with all prejudice related incidents or incidents which are a breach of this policy;

- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- the responsibility of involving the School Council in:
  - determining this policy with the Governing Body;
  - discussing improvements to this policy during the school year;
  - organising surveys to gauge the thoughts of all pupils;
  - reviewing the effectiveness of this policy with the Governing Body.
  
- Fr James Bryson, Parish Priest will:
  - visit the school regularly;
  - work closely with the Headteacher and the coordinator;
  - ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
  - ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;
  - attend training related to this policy.
  
- Take responsibility for celebrating the effort, success achievements of pupils and school personnel;
- Take responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

### **Role of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT)**

The Headteacher and the SLT will:

- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- ensure that daily collective worship will:
  - be well planned
  - be of a high quality
  - take place at a set time every day
  - take place as a whole school, phase group or a year group
  - be explicitly Christian
  - use prayer and liturgy as the core elements of worship
  - incorporate readings and bible references
  - be sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school
  - promote a sense of community
  - be a special time in the school day
  
- nominate a member of staff to be responsible for the organisation and development of this policy;
- work closely with the link governor and coordinator;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;

- monitor the effectiveness of this policy by speaking with pupils, school personnel, parents and governors;

## Role of the Coordinator

The coordinator will:

- lead the development of this policy throughout the school;
- plan collective worship for the school year;
- work closely with the Headteacher and the nominated governor;
- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises regarding;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- undertake risk assessments to ensure:
  - fire exits are clear and not blocked by furniture
  - pupils are supervised at all times
  - pupils enter and leave the school have in a orderly manner
  - pupils sit away from trailing electrical cables
  - pupils are kept a safe distance away from lit candles
  - pupils are aware of the evacuation of the school building procedure
- review and monitor;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

## Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with all aspects of this policy;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community

## Role of Pupils

Pupils will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- during assembly time pupils be:
  - dignified and respectful
  - calm and reflective
  - able to behave in an appropriate manner
  - quiet, thoughtful and to listen carefully

- listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher;
- ask for further help if they do not understand;
- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the school;
- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys

We want children to participate not only in the hymns and prayers but to show their work and to raise issues that they have discussed in class.

## **Role of Parents/Carers**

Parents/carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- be aware of their right of withdrawing their children from collective worship;
- be invited to attend class assemblies;
- be asked to take part periodic surveys conducted by the school;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure smooth running of the school

## **Organisation**

The Education Reform Act states that collective worship need no longer be at the start of the school day, and worship may take place in a single act of worship or separate acts of worship in different age groups.

We have decided to hold a daily act of worship in each key stage and at different times.

The beginning of any school day is always hectic and we are concerned that rushing pupils through registration and then into the hall for worship is devaluing the occasion and making the pupils unsettled. Therefore, our aim is to move our time of worship to before and after mid-morning break.

There will be occasions when worship, because of unforeseen circumstances, will take place in individual classrooms and be conducted by class teachers.

## **Length, Time and Pace**

We are aware that we have to fulfill a statutory amount of teacher-pupil contact time namely, 22½ hours for infants and 23½ hours for juniors. Collective worship is not included in this time. Therefore, our collective worship will be kept to 15 minutes with several minutes being allowed for the pupils coming in making a maximum of no more than 20 minutes.

## **Composition**

Music - taped/CD music should be played at the beginning and end of collect worship which, if possible, fits in with the theme for the week. The title of the music and the composer should be written on the magi-board above the piano.

Hymns - should be chosen to reflect the theme for the week or the day. Taped hymn singing will be used for the children to sing along with when it is not possible to use piano accompaniment.

Prayers - the children should be introduced to several prayers which we expect them to learn. The compilation of pupils' prayers should be actively encouraged and made into a book of prayers to be used at relevant times.

Provider - the provider may be the Headteacher, Deputy Head, class teacher, pupils, vicar, or outside speaker.

Theme - the theme to follow will be that planned by the co-ordinator.

## **Activities**

In planning collective acts of worship we must bear in mind the following activities: -

- singing, readings and storytelling, rituals, drama, music for listening, responses, audio-visual presentation, interviews, symbols, prayer, dance, visiting speakers and cooking

## **Planning the Year**

When planning the year the co-ordinator will think carefully about the inclusion of the following :-

- High days and holidays
- Saint Days
- Feasting for Festivals
- World Faiths
- National
- World Events

Planning for the academic year will take place before the end of each half term and all staff will then be given a year plan of the proposed collective acts of worship.

## **Involvement of Local Religious Groups**

We believe that the involvement of local religious groups is vital to the development of our pupils. Therefore, speakers from local religious groups will be invited to speak to our pupils when we celebrate collective worship.

## **Involvement of Others**

We actively encourage the involvement of outside speakers such as the local Police, lollipop lady etc. who will be invited to take an active part in our collective worship on a set theme.

## **Involvement of Parents**

Parents will be invited to attend their child's class assemblies which take place once every academic year.

## **Achievements Assembly**

The assembly on Friday morning is an occasion when the whole school meets to share together the successes and achievements of individual pupils either in or out of school. Also, house points are awarded and birthdays celebrated.

## **Raising Awareness of this Policy**

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

- the School Handbook/Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- reports such annual report to parents and Headteacher reports to the Governing Body
- information displays in the main school entrance

## **Training**

All school personnel:

- have equal chances of training, career development and promotion
- receive training on induction which specifically covers:
  - All aspects of this policy
  - Ethos
  - Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development
  - Celebrating Success
  - Curriculum
  - Health and Safety
  - Risk Assessments
  - Equal opportunities
  - Inclusion
- receive periodic training so that they are kept up to date with new information
- receive equal opportunities training on induction in order to improve their understanding of the Equality Act 2010 and its implications

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.

### **Monitoring the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Policy**

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the coordinator, the Headteacher and the nominated governor.

A statement of the policy's effectiveness and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be presented to the Governing Body for further discussion and endorsement.

### **Linked Policies**

▪ Curriculum	▪ Health and Safety
▪ Risk Assessments	▪ Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development
▪ Celebrating Success	▪ Ethos

### **See Appendices Documents section on Policies for Schools Website**

- Frequency of Policy Monitoring
- Monitoring Implementation and Policy Effectiveness Action Plan
- Initial Equality Impact Assessment
- Policy Evaluation
- Policy Approval Form