



Webster
Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

1. Aims and purpose

Collective worship provides an opportunity to:-

- encourage pupils to develop an awareness of the universal moral principles of right and wrong, justice and fairness and a proper concern for the fate of others and the world;
- affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of the school;
- add to the pupils' awareness of, and sense of belonging to, the many different dimensions of the school's community;
- experience the sense of gathering for a special purpose;
- share an experience that promotes thought and reflection;
- promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- provide an opportunity to reflect on practical issues raised by becoming an adult citizen of the world
- consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response; and
- reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background; this may include worship of God within each participant's own faith understanding.

2. Collective worship-our philosophy

We believe that collective worship adds value to the education process. We are a community school with pupils and staff from many different faith backgrounds, or with no faith background. Our community therefore contains people with different views on what or whom may be worthy of worship, and so our collective worship is different to that experienced in a single faith community (corporate worship).

In line with statutory requirements we provide a daily assembly with content of a broadly Christian character. That is to say, our assemblies incorporate elements that Christians might recognise from their worship, e.g. songs, music, celebrations, stories, learning from the good examples of others and readings from holy books. Our assemblies promote values that Christians believe to be important. These are often values held to be important by other faiths as well. We incorporate stories, teachings, festivals, shared experiences, celebrations, drama, prayers and reflections from a wide range of faiths, and conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

3. Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship during assembly (apart from Wednesday when this takes place in each classroom). We have a weekly theme of a spiritual, moral or social nature which forms the basis of our assemblies. The objectives, content and reflections of our collective worship are carefully planned and recorded, and the plans filed in the office. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We teach children that assembly is a time of participation and reflection. We encourage them to listen, think, share and contribute. We use a range of visual resources as well as music and candles to create a focal point for reflection. Every assembly concludes with a calm moment of reflection on a specific theme during which the candle is lit, the lights are turned off and silence is observed.

When pupils are away from school on a trip or residential visit, alternative collective worship provision is made for them elsewhere.

The specific organisation of our daily assemblies is as follows:-

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday-Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher/SLT member-stories or activities of a spiritual and/or moral nature incorporating the elements mentioned in 2 above.
- Wednesday-reflection in each classroom on the weekly theme.
- Friday-certificate assembly-celebration of achievement for individuals, groups and teams-Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.

We also hold special assemblies at various points during the year to celebrate special events and festivals, to which parents and members of the wider school community are invited.

4. 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, as stated by the 1988 Education Reform Act. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned, but would not make arrangements for an alternative act of worship .

5. Monitoring and review

Monitoring occurs informally through staff and pupil discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors.