



Alderman Pounder Infant and Nursery School

## Policy for Collective Worship

**Document Owner:** Head Teacher

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**Review frequency:** Annual

### REVISION HISTORY

Version	Revision Date	Next review due	Summary of Changes (and author)
1.0	Autumn 2016	Autumn 2017	Re-written in light of the Standing Advisory Council of Religious Education Collective Worship Policy Guidance. Agreed at C&P 03.10.16
1.1	Autumn 2017	Autumn 2018	No changes.

## **Collective Worship Policy**

Alderman Pounder Infant and Nursery School seeks to provide a broad and balanced education for all children by addressing their academic, social, moral and spiritual needs within a caring, positive and stimulating environment. At Alderman Pounder we aim to have a positive ethos where there is mutual respect between pupils, staff, other adults and visitors to the school where people are valued and encouraged to have high self-esteem.

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The timing and organisation of daily collective worship can be flexible, including the whole school together in one place or as classes or as groups of children meeting.

### **Collective worship legislation**

Education Reform Act 1988, as amended by the Education Act 1993 sets out the legal requirements for collective worship in schools in England. These requirements apply to pupils in maintained schools other than special schools. The requirements do not apply to colleges of further education or to nursery schools or nursery classes in infant or primary schools.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

For the school: Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Alderman Pounder School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can: share common aims and values, celebrate achievement and special times, explore together the world in which we live, develop a community spirit and reinforce positive attitudes.

For the pupils: we also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

### **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Alderman Pounder, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities

for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to manage Collective Worship within the school following consultation with the Governing Body.

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Acts of Collective Worship take place on a daily basis and may involve the whole school, key stages, year groups or classes.

### **Leading acts of Collective Worship**

School staff can be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. In addition, visitors can also be invited to lead.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils and to meet the requirements of DfE Circular 1/94 (January 1994).

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at our school. Leaders from faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness and promote respect of different faith groups.

### **The Act of Collective Worship**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

It is recognised that assemblies and acts of Collective Worship are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering the difference between the two should be clear. Collective Worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

### **Withdrawal**

Collective Worship, subject to the right of withdrawal, is intended to be appropriate for and to include all pupils attending the school. Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Head Teacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.