



POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

MISSION STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTION

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Sir John Moore C.E. (A) Primary School, valuing all children equally.

Sir John Moore School is a Christian School, developing confident, caring children. We encourage everyone to become independent and creative learners, who work hard to achieve their full potential. We have high expectations of behaviour and care for one another, rooted in the Christian ethos.

The ethos of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values which are set out, clearly, in the School Prospectus.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine.

"Praise, prayer, silence, a sense of community, common ideal, the power of the spoken word, ritual, and an awareness of important experiences all contribute to worship."

DEFINITIONS

Worship: can be defined as paying homage to (revering) that which is of worth ("Worship.") Religious Worship is the acknowledgement of 'worth' which is attributable to a supreme being. Worth can also be registered in other people and in values and attitudes.

School Assembly: is a gathering of the school community; it is often used to celebrate and focus on the life and values of the community itself.

Corporate Worship: is a gathering of a body ('corpus') of believers and pre-supposes a particular religious commitment.

Collective Worship: is a gathering of a 'collection' of people of diverse, religious, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and does not pre-suppose any particular religious commitment.

NB: We note that Collective Worship and Assembly are not one and the same thing. They are, in essence, different from each other, but in practice they often overlap.

RATIONALE - LEGAL

- Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school which states that it shall be conducted as a voluntary school in accordance with the provisions of the Education Acts 1944 to 1953, and religious instruction in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England shall be given therein. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly Christian in character.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.

- All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

RATIONALE – RELIGIOUS/EDUCATIONAL

Collective Worship:-

- gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion. These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- fosters a reverential attitude to God, the Divine, the transcendent.
- encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- provides an opportunity, for everyone who can use it, to participate in religious worship.
- allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- brings children and adults together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- is the source of much interesting and thought provoking knowledge.
- offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama.
- makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.” (DfEE – Circular 1/94)

The following principles guide our approach to Collective Worship at Sir John Moore C.E. (A) Primary School.

- Collective Worship should have a sense of occasion and atmosphere of reverence.
- Collective Worship should provide experiences within which pupils’ spiritual development may flourish.
- Collective Worship should be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school.
- Collective Worship should be educational and should contribute to the Religious Education of all pupils.
- Collective Worship should be shaped to the needs of the school, (time, place, content, style etc.)
- We should provide a varied pattern of worship to broaden pupils’ experience of its different forms.
- Collective Worship should recognise that the school includes children from different religious and non-religious backgrounds.

- During Collective Worship some will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Collective Worship are to:-

- affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God, and to worship him.
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer.
- create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere in assemblies, conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit.
- encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude.
- help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness.
- enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation.
- raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life.
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material.
- help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world.
- enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others.
- enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them.
- help children distinguish between right and wrong.
- affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility.
- celebrate individual and collective achievements.
- develop a sense of community within the school.
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship.

MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governors (Christian Distinctiveness committee)
- Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 48 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

The School Development Plan will include a section on Collective Worship which gives an indication of the intentions and arrangements for review concerning the following:

- Themes and approaches.
- Staff training and support.
- Development of resources.
- Pupil participation and response.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. The co-ordinator also keeps in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out on a weekly and termly basis so that effective review can take place by the appointed date.

ORGANISATION

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place in the school hall or in the classroom at the following times:

Monday:	9.15am	Whole School	Headteacher/teaching staff
Tuesday	1.15pm	Whole class	Headteacher (Singing practise)
Wednesday:	1.15pm	Key stage	Teachers (Rota)
Thursday:	10.25am	Class	Teacher/ pupils
Friday:	2.45 p.m.	Whole School (achievement)	Headteacher/SLT

The Parents' assembly will be the first Friday every month and will begin at 2.45pm.

Each week the worship follows a planned theme. The themes are planned one term at a time, using suggestions from the Diocese. The structure of assemblies includes music, a song of praise, a story or talk, perhaps a reading from the Bible, a period of reflection and a prayer. The Thursday act of worship takes place in the classroom, sometime during the day at the discretion of the teacher, and may last up to 20 minutes. There may also be a singing assembly on a Wednesday morning which will include an act of worship. It may be combined with Personal and Social Education. This is also the case for the classes on a Thursday.

The school worships in church on the following occasions – Harvest, Easter, Christmas and end of year and other special services of significance e.g. Remembrance.

Members of Ashby Youth for Christ occasionally come and lead our worship. Our Priest in Charge (Reverend Sue Bradley) also comes in regularly for assembly.

ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

“There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression.”

Atmosphere is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. A covered table with flowers /a cross /a bible and a candle help to set the scene.

Music is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. One piece is selected each week and pupils’ attention is drawn to it each day.

Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

Songs are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.

Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school should provide opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord’s Prayer, and children’s prayers may be used. A large candle or light may be used and provides a focus for pupils’ thoughts. Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils’ response. A grace is said in the classroom at the end of each morning and the school prayer is said at the end of each day. This prayer was written by a group of year 6 children and has been adopted by the school.

Scripture sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings.

Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and video.

CONTENT

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator for Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Themes. Provided by the Diocese for each term form the basis of our plans.

Links with R.E. and the Curriculum are incorporated wherever possible. Assemblies can be followed up in the classroom by further discussion and emphasis throughout the day. There is often an overlap between Collective Worship and Personal and Social Education.

RESOURCES

Staff, pupils, visiting speakers.	Candle and stand,
Selection of religious artefacts	Themes and resources from Diocese of Leicester
Selection of assembly topic books for teachers	Cross
Selection of assembly song books	The Bible
Laptop and projector	
Recorded music – classical, folk, music from around the world.	
Modern music appropriate to the theme of the week	
CD player	

RECORDS AND ASSESSMENT

Themes for Collective Worship are noted on the assembly rota, a copy of which is displayed in the staffroom.

Stories, songs, prayers/thoughts and music are entered on the daily Collective Worship planning sheets which are kept in the Curriculum Co-ordinator's collective worship file.

Records for classroom acts of worship are entered in the teachers' own planning file. Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Head Teacher and the Co-ordinator through:-

- observation of children's' attentiveness and level of interest.
- classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- comments from parents, visitors and governors.
- the extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
- self-evaluation/comment by the teacher, on the daily planning sheet.

Staff meetings are used for discussion and the update of information as and when necessary.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

MULTICULTURALISM

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths studied in our school. Tolerance and understanding of other religions is encouraged.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES AND VISITORS

Within a Christian context, special assemblies are held for Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and End of the School Year. Parents, Governors and visitors are especially welcome to attend.

Parents are invited to the Friday Achievement Assemblies at the beginning of each month.

Occasionally outside speakers, such as representatives from charitable organisations, will lead some assemblies.

ROLE OF CO-ORDINATOR

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the head teacher and foundation governors.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document.
- To review the policy on a regular basis.
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources.
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources.
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To report to the head teacher and governors.
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship

REVIEW

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, two years from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

This Policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of Sir John Moore C.E. (A) Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors, the Headteacher and the Collective Worship Co-ordinator in conjunction with all staff.
The Policy was last reviewed: September 2018