

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy was approved by Governors on 13th March 2024 and will be reviewed in Spring 2025

Introduction

This policy relates to the School's Mission Statement (see school's aim, below) and the arrangements of Collective Worship are to be made by the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

It is the school's aim to:

- provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God,
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs,
- encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered,
- develop community spirit,
- promote a Christian ethos and shared values,
- reinforce positive attitudes,
- provide the opportunity to celebrate and share,
- provide the opportunity for the pupils to learn about and express creatively some aspects of worship,
- provide a special time, when pupils come together and share in an experience when they look beyond themselves towards a higher purpose and meaning for their lives.

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective worship, by its very nature, should reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and through it people may give attention to, interact with and express those highest values and concerns which are the basis of their most deeply held beliefs. So collective worship at our school should help young people to develop consistent belief patterns and the skills to recognise, interact with and express them in their lives.

Collective worship may express particular values, qualities, virtues, concerns, interests, needs, issues, feelings, experiences, questions, in fact, any appropriate concept worthy of reverent consideration.

There will be many occasions when collective worship can be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

This policy recognises that *Collective Worship* is not to be confused with the concept of *assembly*.

Entitlement

The entitlement for Collective Worship is stated in the School Standards and Framework Act (1998), Section 70 (p.56) and 71. [See enclosed appendix.]

“The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England”. [The National Society]

Implementation

The act of worship will be daily and will normally take place on the school premises. Pupils also have the opportunity to take part in Collective Worship at our local parish church of St. Peter’s, Navenby, at various times throughout the year.

Usually the whole school will worship together at least four days a week and on the other day the pupils will worship together in their classes. There may be occasions when these arrangements will need to be changed according to circumstances. On one of these whole school occasions, the school will come together in what is described as a ‘Celebration’ in which we recognise the worth of individual and group achievements, attitudes and performances. At the end of each half term, every class has the opportunity to share what they have learnt about in their class worships related to our school value.

Acts of worship will generally include time for quiet reflection and may be led by the Headteacher, the Deputy, a Class Teacher, Church Friends, visiting speakers or the pupils. Parents, governors and school visitors are invited to attend any act of Collective Worship.

No member of staff may be required to attend or lead an act of worship against his/her will.

Acts of Worship in our school are planned according to the perceived needs and stage of development of pupils within the aims, ethos and Christian Values of our Church school. In both Key Stages, this may be preceded by a question, a story, poem, song or excerpt from a piece of instrumental music, a discussion– or a combination of these using a focal point (e.g. lighted candle, flower, etc.). Prayers are always Christian in nature and pupils learn the Lord’s Prayer as a matter of course. Pupils are encouraged to say their own prayers and to share their prayers with others, as appropriate. Children are encouraged to write their own prayers and these are incorporated into worship on a regular basis.

Planning for Acts of Worship is based on six Christian Values (thankfulness, peace, faithfulness, respect, hope and forgiveness) and works on a bi-annual cycle with sub-themes. This allows the use of material from a wide range of cultural and religious sources, in addition to Christianity, and contributes to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Major Christian festivals, Saints’ Days and other events in the Church year are included. Children’s spontaneity is valued and unexpected opportunities are taken to further pupils’ development. Opportunities for linking acts of worship with classroom teaching and learning are taken where appropriate.

Review

The Governing Body recognises the importance of keeping its Collective Worship Policy up-to-date and will review the policy on an annual basis.

Policy Approved: Full Governors meeting 14th March 2024

Signed:

Chair of Governors: Mrs H Jerstice

Head teacher Mr C Elliott

APPENDIX

Collective Worship Timetable 2023-24

Monday	9:05 – Whole School Whole School Collective Worship led by the Headteacher/Deputy Head/Joy Foundation.
Tuesday	9.05 – Whole School Collective Worship, in the hall, led by Church Friends
Wednesday	9:05 - Whole School Collective Worship led by class teachers
Thursday	Class worship
Friday	09:05 – Whole School ‘Celebration’ Class celebrations led by class teachers STARS led by Headteacher/Key Stage leads Subject celebrations led by subject leader Collective Worship Councilors Celebration Worship