

# Collective Worship Policy in a Community School

KS1 and KS2

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## **A Policy for Collective Worship in Primary Community Schools or Foundation Schools without a religious character**

### **At our school we believe that Collective Worship should:-**

- give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- strengthen and support the school community and individual members
- provide an experience that promotes the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils
- introduce children to the concept of worship
- provide an opportunity for personal and shared reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- be of a broadly Christian nature
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- foster a respect for self and engender a concern for the needs of others

In particular the following school aims are fulfilled/achieved through the act of Collective Worship:-

### **Aims about school ethos/values**

## **Legal Framework – School Standards and Framework Act 1998**

Responsibility for arranging school worship in community schools rests with the headteacher after consultation with the governing body.

All pupils including sixth-form students should take part in a daily act of Collective Worship.

There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day, either on or off the school premises, eg Easter service in the church.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussions with the headteacher followed by a written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the headteacher, have the right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship, but the headteacher maintains statutory accountability.

Collective Worship organised by the school will be of a ‘wholly or broadly Christian character’ and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By ‘broadly Christian’ in this school we mean:-

### Suggestions:

- Worship contains some elements which accord special status to Jesus Christ, his teaching and actions, eg The Sermon on the Mount and Miracles of Healing.
- Exploration of the belief that in the person and example of Jesus, God can be seen in a unique way.
- Sharing with the children the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue in Jesus’ work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings – through the exploration of key concepts – love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of worship should take into account pupils’ ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. The headteacher and governors may apply for a determination from SACRE if there is a large number of pupils in the school who are from non-Christian families.

## **Structure**

In this school worship is organised as follows:-

- Leadership:
- Groupings:
- Time:
- Place:
- Participation by children:

## **Planning**

In this school Collective Worship is planned:-

### Suggestions:

- 1 Around termly, half-termly, weekly themes, appropriate to pupils' aptitude and ability
- 2 Around major festivals
- 3 In response to local, national, international news and issues.

## **Recording**

How is worship recorded and evaluated (planning sheets).

### Suggestions:

Evaluation – an evaluation of how the learning intentions of Collective Worship were realised. This could be achieved by asking a child, teacher or class to reflect on the worship and these evaluations could be part of the ongoing monitoring of Collective Worship.

## **Approaches**

Collective Worship is first and foremost for the educational and spiritual benefit of pupils. It is a shared activity which allows a variety of responses. It is an inclusive activity which builds links with the broad dimensions of the curriculum. The creation of atmosphere is assisted by appropriate music, visual foci and symbols. Opportunity for reflection and responses, prayer, story, drama and art are also used to appeal to the pupils' imagination.

## **Monitoring**

In this school Collective Worship will be monitored by:

- 1 Discussion at staff and governor meetings (minutes to be kept with the records). This discussion will include:
  - \* Review of content and methodology;
  - \* Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership;
  - \* Links to curriculum and classroom experience;
  - \* Resources and budget;
  - \* Inset
- 2 Review of job description and role of Collective Worship co-ordinator.