



## Collective Worship Policy

**Policy approved and adopted:** January 2021

**Review date:** January 2022

This policy has been devised in line with Hampshire County Council guidelines for Collective Worship and the associated statutory duties of schools.

### Aims and purpose

Collective Worship (Assembly) is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum that we provide for our children and reinforces the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children whilst reinforcing the school's values, British values and the Prevent Strategy.

Our aim is to:

- Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- Develop in children, a sense of community spirit with shared school, social and moral values
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder allowing time to reflect on the wonder and mystery of existence
- Develop children's knowledge of the beliefs, values, celebrations and traditions of Christianity and other world religions.
- To allow all children the opportunity to explore their own beliefs

We interpret 'worship' as:

'A form of human activity, when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us'

Collective Worship provides a time for children to **reflect, revere** and **respond**. It helps to foster a sense of community, celebrating the life of the school and helping children to consider their place in the world.

### Organisation

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that Collective Worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the traditions of Christianity. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. We also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Each half term, themes for assemblies will be explored and shared through a variety of stimuli such as stories, artefacts, poems, music, art, drama, discussion and prayer. Where appropriate, assemblies will reflect special occasions, important issues and or current events. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school PSHE curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place and links are made with the school's 'Values Wheel'.

Members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes children take the lead. Visitors are also invited to lead assemblies, including representatives from the local church and other members of the local community.

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school, although the time of this varies. Our assemblies take place in the hall or in classrooms. Music and candles may be used to create a quiet and thoughtful atmosphere, where a sense of community and belonging is fostered. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We remind children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Where a prayer is said, children are invited to join in and are expected to be respectful of others if they choose not to pray.

Our assemblies also celebrate the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Monday	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	Whole School Singing Assembly
Wednesday	Upper School Assembly / Lower School Class Assemblies
Thursday	Lower School Assembly / Upper School Class Assemblies
Friday	Whole School Celebration Assembly

### **Right of Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from participating in acts of Collective Worship. Requests for this must be made in writing to the headteacher, who will then meet with the parents to discuss their request. Teachers and support staff are entitled to withdraw from Collective Worship; this request must also be made in writing to the headteacher.

The Head teacher keeps a record of all those who withdraw from Collective Worship and ensures that they are suitably occupied and supervised.

### **Virtual Assemblies**

Due to school closures during the Covid-19 pandemic, assemblies have been adapted to ensure that the requirements for social distancing are maintained.

- Singing assemblies are no longer taking place due to health and safety restrictions regarding children being unable to sing in large groups
- PSHE activities take place weekly to support children's mental health and well-being. This is in place of the singing assembly
- The Monday and Friday whole school assemblies take place virtually
- The children take part in class assemblies led by the class teacher on the other days.
- Where children are working remotely, they have a daily Teams meeting with a member of staff and well-being activities may be included during this time. Everyone is invited to take part in a virtual Celebration Assembly on a Friday afternoon. Each year group has a time slot during the afternoon so that children from families with more than one child all have a chance to participate. The headteacher leads these assemblies.