

Collective Worship Policy 2024 - 2025

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day.

These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Families who send their children to this school represent a range of religious and non-religious views. The faith background of both the staff and the children and their families is respected at all times.

The headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Parents of a pupil at this school have a right to withdraw their children collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from worship.

**DEFINITIONS**

Collective worship

Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worth-ship. This might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to God and/or people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension to concepts, principles and conduct which are worth of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit. Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

Worship of a broadly Christian character

The majority of acts of worship must be of a “broadly Christian character”, and those that are, must reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominational. In order to be inclusive in our worship in this school, taking the family backgrounds of the children into consideration, then, when according a special status to Jesus Christ, all pupils, whatever their beliefs, need to be respected. It is therefore appropriate in this school to tell stories of the life of Jesus, but inappropriate for all children to be required to address Him in prayer. Many of the characteristics of Christianity are shared by all the faiths. It is important to concentrate on these as well as those specific to Christianity

**VALUES AND AIMS**

At Cale Green Primary School, we believe that collective worship supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

* become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
* grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
* explore the language which people use to express their feelings
* deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
* grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
* respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
* acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not

Worship reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

* show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
* celebrate special occasions together
* show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
* share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
* explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
* reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn….;
* reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

**PLANNING**

In this school we combine our acts of worship with whole school assemblies (three times per week) and class assemblies (twice per week). The headteacher and/or deputy head usually leads the whole school assemblies. We plan the time so that content and methods are varied, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

We choose from a range of methods, including:

* pupil’s contributions
* sacred and secular stories/readings
* prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music
* artefacts/natural materials
* visual aids/focal points
* visitors

We evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

* involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
* the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
* positive response to shared experience
* a contribution to individual and community sense of well being
* a sense of occasion
* enrichment of pupil’s experience

**Prayer** - We feel that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts and have our own school prayer. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. At the end of collective worship sessions, we have a quiet moment of reflection with some key thoughts shared with the children which reflect the key message. The use of regular moments of silent reflection provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

**Visitors** - We enjoy the fresh approach which visitors can bring to our school worship, but we require them to adhere to our values

Mrs Carole Harding

Summer 2025