

Orchard Community Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Version	Date	Author	Reason for Change
0.1	9/2018	FS	New Policy
0.2	1/2021	FS	No changes - reviewed
0.3	12/2023	FS	Reviewed and re-written in parts to reflect current practice
0.4	12/2026	FS	No changes - reviewed

Review Frequency	Next Review Date
Every 3 years	12/2029

Approved by: Governing Body – Autumn 2026

RATIONALE - AIMS & PURPOSE

We believe at Orchard Primary School that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring 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.

The aims and purpose of collective worship at our school are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to engage in an act of worship;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship;

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Through 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.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.
- Foster a sense of fellowship bringing pupils together.
- Create an atmosphere where children can experience worship.
- To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life.

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 teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

OBJECTIVES

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 etc.
- 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.

ORGANISATION & PROCEDURE

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards & Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Governing Body.

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes the form of a whole school or Key Stage assembly or an assembly in class.

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally lead assemblies, but sometimes local clergy, other representatives of local religious groups, or visitors from community organisations e.g. RSPCA, are invited into the school to share the leadership of the assembly.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We also acknowledge festivals and events from other religious calendars, such as Diwali and Eid. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, or link to values and other PSHE teaching. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place, although some assemblies do respond to events as they happen either within the school community or in the wider local or national community of which we are a part.

Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Our Friday 'Achievement Assembly' reflects the accomplishments and learning of the children.

A programmed schedule for collective worship is devised by the Headteacher and shared with staff. This will include stories, poetry, biography, drama, special occasions/events and will be taken from other philosophies and religions as well as Christianity. There is also flexibility to include current and topical issues.

Pupils will be asked to participate in a variety of ways: answer questions; give opinions; describe an event/feelings; drama; discuss in pairs.

The ethos of both assembly and worship should promote "togetherness" and a sense of school family/community.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The governing body liaises with the Headteacher on collective worship and reviews the policy and practice with her on a regular basis.