



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Scope: Deanwood Primary School
Responsibility: Local Academy Board
Date Adopted: November 2023
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Review Date: November 2025

Approved by the Deanwood Primary School Local Academy Board

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Giles", with a horizontal line underneath.

Print name and title Mr D Giles - Chair of Governors

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Statement of intent

We see the value in collective worship and adhere to our statutory duty by providing an opportunity for collective worship each day. This time will enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

The act of daily collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented. Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how our school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

1. Legal framework

1.1 This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1.2 This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'
- DfE (2012) 'Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools'
- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Reform Act 1988
- The Education Act 1993

2. Definition of Collective worship

2.1 For the purpose of this policy, "collective worship" is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals come together for a period of reflection or prayer.

3. Aims of collective worship

Collective worship aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

4. Organisation and planning

- 4.1 The academy will implement collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).
- 4.2 Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with section 7 of this policy.
- 4.3 Worship/reflection will be of a broadly Christian character; however, there will be influences from other religions.
- 4.4 The Head of School is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing board.
- 4.5 The act of worship/reflection will usually be held daily in the school hall during assembly
- 4.6 Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the Head of School and governing board.
- 4.7 The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- 4.8 The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

5. Weekly collective worship programme

5.1 The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme	
Monday	Two assemblies are delivered by class teachers on a rota basis to KS1 and KS2 separately. The themes for these assemblies are usually the same, though content will be differentiated appropriate to pupils' ages. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.	A whole-school assembly is delivered by the Assistant Head of School. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.
Tuesday	Whole-school singing assembly is delivered by the music team, assisted by other members of staff on a rota basis. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.	A whole-school celebration assembly is delivered by a member of the teaching staff. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.
Wednesday	A whole-school assembly is delivered by the Head of School. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.	Whole-school singing assembly is delivered by the Head of School and assisted by other members of staff on a rota basis. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.
Thursday	A whole-school celebration assembly is delivered by the Head of School. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.	Two assemblies are delivered by class teachers on a rota basis to KS1 and KS2 separately. The themes for these assemblies are usually the same, though content will be differentiated appropriate to pupils' ages. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.
Friday	A whole-school assembly is delivered by a member of the teaching staff. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.	A whole-school assembly is delivered by a member of the teaching staff. Time for prayer and/or reflection is included at the end of the assembly.

5.2 Collective worship will address key themes such as:

Unity	Peace	Happiness	Hope
Patience	Caring	Humility	Simplicity
Trust	Freedom	Quality	Co-operation
Understanding	Honesty	Perseverance	Appreciation
Courage	Love	Friendship	Thoughtfulness
Tolerance	Responsibility	Respect	

5.3 All topics covered will be suitable to the age of pupils participating in collective worship and will be inclusive for all needs.

6. Implementation

6.1 The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers.

7. Right to withdraw

7.1 Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

7.2 Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the Head of School following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.
- Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the Head of School and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

7.3 The Head of School will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

8. Monitoring and review

- 8.1 This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Head of School in agreement with the governing body.
- 8.2 This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.
- 8.3 Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.