



School's Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed March 2023
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Collective Act of Worship

As a school, we have agreed to adopt the Sheffield Agreed Collective Worship Policy and Guidance.

Below is a summary of the aims and main elements:

AIMS

Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement or in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

The definition of God may be best left to individual understanding, though concepts from different faiths could be considered.

The difficult part of these aims is the notion of worshipping God which may not be appropriate for all pupils in a school. The word 'opportunity' gives the hint e.g. 'Think quietly about what the topic means to them, and for those who have belief in a God to turn their thoughts into prayer'.

At Dobcroft Junior School we reflect in silence, where appropriate in assemblies and encourage pupils to think and reflect on the messages taught. At such times for pupils who have a belief in God it is a time to turn their thoughts to prayer.

School's Obligations & responsibilities

- It is the Headteacher's duty to ensure Collective Worship takes place daily.
- In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, the Education Reform Act says that Collective Worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character. This usually means that at least 51% of our collective worship is related to Christianity.
- The extent to which it broadly follows Christian beliefs, should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils. It is for the Headteacher to determine this after consultation with the Governing Body.
- Right of withdrawal: If a parent asks for a pupil to be partly or wholly excused from attending a Collective Worship at the school, then our school will comply and we would supervise the child in another space in school. Although parents are not obliged to state their reasons for withdrawal, we ask that they request in writing their preference and the elements they would like their child to be withdrawn from.

Main Purpose of Collective Worship

- Brings the whole school community together with a sense of togetherness
- Collective Worship offers opportunities to think, reflect, be challenged, form intentions, notice what is valuable, affirm one's faith, hope or commitments, celebrate, share, grieve, learn or be quiet.
- Learn more deeply about faiths, beliefs, cultures, current affairs, learning from the past; beyond the planned national curriculum in the classroom
- To celebrate and share our diversity within school and has a role in promoting respect for and understanding of those with different beliefs and religious practices from their own, based on rigorous studies of different faiths.
- To reflect upon events, meaning and value
- Collective Act of Worship is a time when pupils and adults in school share moments of reflection about questions of purpose, meaning and value.
- It promotes the social, spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society and prepares our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- Remind & promote the whole school shared values and British values, focussing on the expectations of behaviour, which makes an important contribution to the children's social, spiritual, moral and cultural development.
- We teach the importance of the country's long tradition of religious freedom which should be preserved and our collective worship also teaches the principles on our British Values as defined by the DFE.
- It is a legal obligation for every school to provide daily Collective Worship for all pupils, with the exception of those pupils who are withdrawn from these activities by their parents.

What Does Collective Worship Look like in our school

- Planned assembly is held every day for 20 minutes (**appendix A**)
- To ensure Collective Worship is appropriate for all pupils, Collective Worship in our school asks pupils to consider the beliefs and practices of religions and other worldviews, but does not ask pupils to engage in repeating beliefs or engaging in practices.
- The timing and organisation of daily Collective Worship is flexible. At Dobcroft Junior School it is a mixture of whole school and groups of pupils within the school.
- In the absence of a definition of worship, it reflects something special or separate from ordinary school activities.
- Collective Worship is related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school and each assembly has a specific focus or theme.

Appendix A

An example of a weekly assembly timetable (collective worship)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Whole School Assembly</i>	<i>Whole school assembly</i>	<i>Whole school assembly</i>	<i>Whole school assembly</i>	<i>Whole school assembly</i>
Subject specific focus (eg geography)	School values	singing & performance	Culture & diversity focus (eg Remembrance, festivals, World Book day...)	celebration of work and achievements
Led by a subject leader/class teacher	Led by the head teacher	Led by a member of senior leadership team	Led by a member of senior leadership team	Led by the head teacher

Appendix B

School Values & Correlation with British Values

Our School Motto is "Together We Make a Difference"

Every half term there is a focus on two of our school values and the corresponding British Values. Pupils are rewarded for displaying our school values each week.

School value	Together we are kind	Together we embrace difference	Together we do our best	Together we are problem solvers	Together we are safe
Corresponding British Value	Mutual Respect Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	Mutual Respect Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs The rule of law	Mutual Respect Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	Democracy Individual Liberty	Individual Liberty The rule of law