



Collective Worship Policy

Date of policy: **March 2010**
Responsibility: **Headteacher**
Date of review: **March 2013**

1 Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship together;
- 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.
- to promote racial harmony and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination.

2 Collective Worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God, to celebrate learners achievements and to develop a sense of community. Collective worship will involve children participating in whole school or key stage worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in any act of worship, although parents have the right, under the 1988 Education Reform Act, to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship.

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 worship in the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship 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 worship that reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organization of collective worship

We hold daily acts of collective worship in our school. This is made up of Monday and Friday whole school assemblies, and key stage assemblies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We encourage the children to develop an understanding that assembly times are periods of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children attempt to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and

to listen carefully to the assembly and participate fully in prayer, reflection and singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

A range of adults conduct assembly including the head teacher or other members of staff, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

We take the themes of our worship from the school values, and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, including SEAL.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assembly offers 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. Longwell Green is a very successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assembly.

We invite parents to assemblies on special occasions, for example family assemblies, and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assemblies. 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 1998 Education Reform Act.

The R.E. leader keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

The headteacher is responsible for collective worship and RE within the Historical, Geographical and Social Understanding Curriculum Team. He will monitor the policy through maintaining a log of assembly themes and this will be reviewed by the Curriculum Team. This policy is formally reviewed every three years by staff and governors (Children and Family Committee).

