



Collective Worship Policy

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Abstract: This policy sets out the schools approach to organising and performing acts of collective worship in our diverse school community.

Approved by:	Mrs M Young Chair of Governors	
Approved by:	Mrs J Watson Headteacher	
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What is collective worship?

Collective worship gives all pupils the opportunity to experience various aspects of life and gives pupils the chance to experience a feeling of unity in a community. Collective worship sessions occur daily to provide all children with the opportunity to develop spiritually, morally, and religiously. These sessions are planned along a weekly theme to give progression, and quality thinking and learning experiences, throughout the week.

Aim of collective worship

In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Education Act, a daily act of worship will be held, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief. Worship should be an enriching experience that encourages thought and reflection on what is beyond the physical, material, and measurable. Children need the opportunity to share beliefs, to enjoy silence and reflection, to develop a sense of community and to respect the thoughts and beliefs of others. It is our aim to provide such opportunities and we shall endeavour to encourage active participation whenever appropriate and to ensure that the children feel safe and affirmed when doing so. The two major faiths represented at Lent Rise are Christianity and Hinduism.

By law, collective worship must:

- Take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents every day.
- Be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- Take account of the ages, aptitudes, and family backgrounds of the pupils.

The link to the Education Act (Collective Worship Policy) is

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/schoolethos/a0064979/collective-worship>

Right of withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of worship. The children concerned are allocated appropriate work set by their class teacher which they work on under supervision and a duty of care is ensured. We also appreciate the opportunity to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible.

How does collective worship contribute to the 5 every child matters outcomes?

1) Be healthy

Collective worship explores moral and social themes and encourages the children to reflect on experiences and emotions. It explores health in both specific issues and in the broader sense of the spiritual dimension of life.

2) Stay safe

In collective worship we investigate and discuss the way we should treat others; we develop understanding of and respect for diverse beliefs and cultures and thus contribute to anti-racism and anti-bullying.

3) Enjoy and achieve

We celebrate individual success through our sharing/well done assembly.

4) Make a positive contribution

Pupils' own experiences, beliefs and perceptions are shared during collective worship.

5) Achieve economic well-being

Collective worship provides the opportunity for pupils to explore and reflect on their individual values and thus helps them to develop qualities, attitudes and dispositions that will help them to engage effectively with the world of work and responsible citizenship.

Organisation

At Lent Rise, we plan our collective worship according to weekly themes. These themes are planned in the long term and then weekly in accordance with those leading the sessions. This gives each week collective worship continuity and progression. Within these themes, we will plan for festivals, important calendar dates, and focal points in the community.

All members of staff and children take an active part in all collective worship. The same class teacher takes both the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions to give more focus on themes and development of ideas and discussions made. The teachers are required to reflect with the children, upon the themes led and consider how the children responded to the assembly theme. There are always two members of staff present during collective worship sessions and when an outside visitor is invited to lead the sessions all staff are also invited to attend, to enhance spiritual and moral development throughout the school.

Where prayer is included in our Collective Worship, it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our school prayer is addressed in such a way to be inclusive of all religious pupils and pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these moments to reflect on the messages shared in our worship.

Weekly timetable:

Monday: SLT assembly based on theme.

Tuesday: Class teacher led assembly based on theme.

Wednesday: Class teacher led assembly based on theme.

Thursday: Assembly led by Open the Book church visitors.

Friday: Sharing assembly and certificates.

Resources

A variety of mediums and resources will be used - plays, storytelling, the children's own work, music etc. There are various resources in the RE coordinator's area, which can be used to enhance Collective Worship sessions. We also have regular visits from local Vicars and invite other members of the community to join us in collective worship. There are also music-based resources (songs for assemblies) with the music coordinator.

Visitors/Community links

Many visitors are invited to Lent Rise School to join and lead our Collective Worship sessions. We have contacts with several local churches of different denominations. We also have contacts with other organisations which are invited to participate in sessions which are linked to variety of themes. Our visitors always plan alongside our weekly planning and school routines to enable the best opportunities for spiritual development.

Music

At the end of each assembly, there is often the opportunity for the children to partake in singing a song which links to the particular week's theme.

SEND

We attempt to identify and provide for all our pupils within collective worship. All assemblies are differentiated to suit all the children's needs. Differentiation happens on two levels; we have split assembly times. Key stage Two (Years 3 - 6) will have collective worship first and then Key Stage One (Years R - 2) will partake in collective worship. The leader of the session can then determine what level to pitch the learning at.

Gifted and talented

Assemblies are differentiated to suit all the children's needs. Challenging discussions, stories and other assembly activities should give the opportunity for students to deepen and broaden their knowledge. Children will be given the opportunity to explore their own and others' understanding of the world through a variety of assembly themes.

'Big Questions' are used to deepen the children's thinking in assemblies.

Recording, Mentoring and Evaluation

The leader of each session may record what has been delivered in line with the weekly theme on either the school's displays or alternatively on the school's ICT system. Brief evaluations of sessions may also be recorded. These will help to plan the next year's themes. Staff members present in each session, discuss events held and this helps with planning for the rest of the week. Additionally, all staff discuss issues on themes and collective worship on a regular basis. Throughout the year, a sample of children are invited to record their thoughts on Collective Worship sessions. These evaluations show sessions remembered by each individual child and why they remember them. All these measures help with future planning.