Ashwood Park Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Responsibility	Headteacher
Reviewed	September 2026
To be reviewed	September 2028

Collective Worship enables children and staff to join together in the worship of God and to celebrate festivals, and from the major faiths and beliefs held by the children in our school and their families.
It offers opportunities to raise and reflect upon moral and social dilemmas, locally, nationally and globally. It provides children with opportunities to reflect upon and consider how we could help others and develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural welfare of the children.

The aims and objectives of Collective Worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- 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 provide a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.

Management and Co-ordination

In accordance with government guidance this school has appointed a leader. The head teacher has the responsibility for supporting policy implementation by providing advice and support to staff and governors, senior managers, classroom teachers and support staff.
The leader will therefore ensure that:

- The Collective Worship policy is disseminated to all members of the school community and is thoroughly discussed and understood
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified
- Equal Opportunity is promoted
- Teaching staff are aware of supporting information and local and national resources that support Collective Worship.

The Nature of Collective Worship

At Ashwood Park we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.
Collective Worship involves children and staff coming together and participating in an assembly, either whole school, phase or class based. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

1988 Education Reform Act

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

Content of an act of Collective Worship

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

Organisation of Collective Worship

- We hold a daily act of Collective Worship, which can be either a whole-school, Phase or Class assembly.
- We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of quiet reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- The assemblies are normally conducted by the head-teacher, senior leadership team or teachers, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.
- We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe and mark the events of the Christian calendar. We also endeavour to reflect the traditions of other faiths represented by families in our school. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to the themes that we teach as part of the school curriculum.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies also provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school.

Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents' Right of Withdrawal.

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

Record of Withdrawal.

The head teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Monitoring and Review

The policy will be reviewed as part of the policy review cycle, at least every two years.