

CARDINAL ROAD INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

**Policy on Collective Worship
and Assembly**



Policy first written 1998 and reviewed Spring 2005, Spring 2007, Spring 2010, Spring 2014, Spring 2018, Spring 2022

Next Review date: Spring 2026

Signed: Chair of Governors

Date:

CARDINAL ROAD INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

POLICY ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLIES

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and legal obligations for Collective Worship. Its purpose is to ensure that

- * all staff are aware of school policy and practice in this area
- * an act of Collective Worship is included in all assemblies
- * assemblies and Collective Worship contribute to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the pupils

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

"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 in the presentation of worship or through listening and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive values."

DFEE Circular 1/94

MEANING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

"Worship' is not defined in the legislation and in the absence of any such definition it should be taken to have its natural and ordinary meaning. That is, it must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power."

Collective worship and assembly are distinctive activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Collective worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

'Taking part' in collective worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It follows that an act of collective worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, even though on a particular occasion some of the pupils may not feel able actively to identify with the act of worship."

DFEE Circular 1/94

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of both the Governing Body and the LEA to secure an act of Collective Worship for all pupils, and it is the responsibility of SACRE [The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education] to advise the authority on such matters connected with religious worship in county schools' *DFEE Circular 1/94*.

The responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Headteacher after consultation with the Governing Body.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

"Collective worship, subject to the right of withdrawal, is intended to be appropriate for and to include all pupils attending a school."

The timing and organisation of daily collective worship can be flexible. It need not be held at the start of the school day. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups ...

As a rule, all acts of collective worship should take place on school premises."

DFEE Circular 1/94

CHARACTER OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

"In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, section 7[1] of the Education Reform Act [and the corresponding section of the Education Act 1993] says that collective worship organised by a county school is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'

The Act then further defines collective worship of a 'broadly Christian character' as being worship, which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. Any such worship should not, however, be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

It is open to a school to have acts of worship that are wholly of a broadly Christian character, acts of worship that are broadly in the tradition of another religion, and acts of worship which contain elements drawn from a number of different faiths. Section 7[3] of the Act qualifies section 7[1] by providing that within each school term the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, but it is not necessary for every act to be so.The majority of acts of worship over a term must be of a wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Collective Worship and Assembly

Provided that, taken as a whole, an act of worship, which is broadly Christian reflects the traditions of Christian belief, it need not contain only Christian material.It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ

The extent to which and the ways in which the broad traditions of Christian belief are to be reflected in such acts of collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes.

Pupils who do not come from Christian families should be able to join in the daily act of collective worship even though this would, in the main, reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief. The law intends that, subject to the exceptions provided by section 9 of the Act, a;; pupils will take part in such collective worship.

The head teacher [should] ensure that the school's plans for daily collective worship, or some other record, are kept in case of queries."

DFEE Circular 1/94

PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLIES

In our school, all assemblies contain an act of collective worship, which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

Any parent who wishes to withdraw their child/ren from collective worship should speak with the Headteacher to make such arrangements. Sometimes, children may be allowed to participate in the assembly, but withdraw for the act of collective worship. Sometimes, the child may remain for the act of collective worship, but not take part in it.

Assemblies are organised in various ways, to suit the demands of timetabling and the ages and aptitudes of the pupils.

- Classes organise their own class assembly one day per week
- Year groups have an assembly together to facilitate the use of the hall for other purposes on one day a week.
- Reception pupils often have their assembly separately as a year group, enabling us to meet their needs more closely.
- The whole school comes together for Class Assemblies and Merit Assemblies. Class Assemblies are shared with parents. Merit Assemblies provide an opportunity to celebrate good work and positive behaviour throughout the school, and to celebrate birthdays with any child who has had a birthday that week.
- From time to time, special events may require classes to hold individual assemblies and acts of worship in their own classrooms.

Assemblies consist of relevant issues and links to RE teaching and meets the needs of the group and school

Collective Worship and Assembly

Each assembly must include a moment for quiet reflection. Pupils are very familiar with their school prayer, and this can be used in any assembly. Other prayers may also be used, and it is particularly effective to ask pupils to write or think of their own prayer. If a moment of quiet reflection is chosen, the teacher leading the assembly should use strategies to ensure that all pupils engage in this appropriately [e.g. closing their eyes for a moment to think].

School Prayer

*Glory to God as the angels sing,
Thanks be to God for everything.
God forgive me as I forgive others,
Please bless all my sisters and brothers.
Last of all dear God bless me
And so I make my prayer to thee.*

Amen

MONITORING

The Headteacher will monitor the implementation of the policy through:

- noting which books/stories/songs are used for themes
- attendance at Class assemblies
- attendance, from time to time, at Year Group Assemblies and assemblies led by other members of staff

Members of the governing body are welcome to attend any assembly by prior arrangement with the school.