



Collective Worship Policy

Fairview Community Primary School

Reviewed: December 2024

Review Due: December 2025

The Collective Worship Policy at Fairview Community Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Local Authority through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the many of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those values and aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths. This policy has taken into account the guidance in Religious Education and Collective Worship – circular 1/94 issued 1994.

The Collective Worship Policy of Fairview Community Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Legal Requirements

All pupils in attendance must take part in an act of collective worship daily, unless they are withdrawn by their parents or those with parental responsibility. Such worship should be in school groups, on school premises, and may take place at any time during the school day. Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, on the majority of occasions, having regard to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils. It must not be denominational i.e. follow the order of a service in a particular church or religious group.'

Pupils in Nursery classes are not covered by collective worship legislation. However, at Fairview we believe that our Nursery children should be given the opportunity for reflection and begin to learn about people's different beliefs through activities relevant to their age and stage of development.

Assemblies have no special status in law. They are often the time when collective worship is provided but are not identical to it. Pupils may be required to attend assemblies (eg to hear notices or to take part in other school activities) but have the right not to participate in acts of collective worship.

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher, after consultation with the Governing Body, to ensure that collective worship is provided and to ensure that provision is made for the care of those pupils who have been withdrawn at the request of their parents.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship in school; it is our policy at Fairview to seek to encourage pupils to join because we believe that our provision of collective worship is of value to all pupils, irrespective of background.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests.

It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of collective worship for the school

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the curriculum and ethos of Fairview Community Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share in our common aims and in our set of school values (collaboration, perseverance, respect, responsibility, honesty and kindness).
- Celebrate achievements and special times
- Enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes
- At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

Planning and Recording

Planning for collective worship is undertaken in the long, medium and short term. Long Term planning relates to this policy and its implementation. Medium term planning consists of devising rolling programmes of themes around which the content of acts of worship is planned.

Short term planning is the planning by individual staff of each act of worship in a similarly careful way to any other education activity. The planning of individual assemblies will for the most part be related to the weekly themes but may also reflect appropriate festivals or events for the time of year, eg Christmas, Eid, Remembrance Day, etc. Ideas for each assembly are given on the Collective Worship Termly Rotas which teachers can use or adapt to meet the needs of their children. Class assemblies will be at the teacher's discretion and may therefore relate to work being covered in class.

Any changes to the rotas should be annotated on the SharePoint set of rotas (Current year, Assemblies and collective worship file, current term). It is the responsibility of the Deputy Head Teacher (DHT) to update and maintain the file.

The record is kept so that we can:

- demonstrate that we have provided a variety of high quality and appropriate experiences and opportunities for pupils;
- more easily evaluate the quality of our provision.
- be sure that the majority of the acts of worship are of a broadly Christian character;
- more easily report to the Governing Body; and
- avoid repetition for our pupils.

Standards to be achieved

As a result of collective worship at Fairview Community Primary School pupils should:

- understand the difference between right and wrong;
- become aware of Christianity and other principal religions through stories, artefacts, music and an introduction to major festivals;
- have respect for the beliefs of others without compromising the integrity of their own;
- show a growing sense of awe and wonder with the world in which they live; and
- have a growing sense of community, and the ethos and values of the school.

Management of Collective Worship

The Head Teacher, after consultation with the Governing Body, is responsible for ensuring that a daily act of worship is provided for all pupils. This responsibility is exercised in consultation with the Deputy Head Teacher responsible for collective worship and by a rota of staff taking whole school and group assemblies.

At Fairview Community Primary School pupils will experience acts of worship as a whole key stage, (eg FS, KS1, Lower KS2 or Upper KS2), in year groups and as individual classes. Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies.

At Fairview, we follow a Collective worship weekly timetable, following the 'Collective worship' SACRE guidelines. The school often gathers for achievement assemblies, singing assemblies and curriculum assemblies. These can be made into an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity for reflection or prayer at the end of these times.

Visitors in Collective Worship

At Fairview Community Primary School visitors from different faiths and from caring organisations will be invited by the DHT, in consultation with the Head Teacher, to attend or lead acts of collective worship. The school has close links with St Matthew's Church which is located next to the school. The vicar from St Matthew's Church and the Family Trust regularly deliver Christian Worship.

Conduct of Collective Worship

To allow acts of worship to be valued by the whole school community, the following practises are promoted by the school;

- using a range of elements, such as music, drama, dance, reflection, poetry, bible stories and stories from other faiths;
- creating an environment appropriate to worship by using artefacts, music and quiet entry and exit;
- involving pupils;
- a thought or theme for the week on which to base the acts of worship;
- a sense of being special and concerned with reverence;
- whole-hearted commitment to providing the same high standards that mark lessons in other areas of the curriculum and other events such as concerts;
- appropriate behaviour of all attending; and
- being aware of the need to help some pupils where issues have been raised that are sensitive.

Equality of Opportunity and Inclusion

We are careful that we do not discriminate by negative attitudes towards, or the favourable treatment of, any child.

The impact of our provision on our disabled and LDD learners has been discussed and awareness raised, adaptations made and resources purchased where appropriate.

Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner that is sensitive and inclusive to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly.