



# Collective Worship Policy

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REVIEW	AUTUMN 2017
HEADTEACHER	
DHT	
GOVERNORS	



## Collective Worship Policy

*The collective worship policy at Sunningdale takes into account all legal requirements and is consistent with the guidelines promoted by SACRE*

Collective worship at Sunningdale complies with all recent requirements and wherever possible acts upon advice from all relevant educational bodies. We offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs and values, consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence and to think about the needs of others and what it means to be a part of the community. At our school, collective worship also offers the opportunity to interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate achievement and positive behaviour.

### *Aims*

The aims and purpose of collective worship are to:

- Enable children to experience spiritual, moral and cultural issues
- Consider their own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality
- Encourage participation and response
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Develop a sense of community spirit
- Promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

### *Collective worship*

Collective worship is a time set aside from the other aspects of school life where pupils are given the opportunity to learn and reflect on a wide range of issues which may if pupils wish evoke a worshipful response. Collective worship involves members of a class, a Key Stage Group or the whole school coming together and participating in a reflective time or an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part taking into account their age and level of understanding.

Assemblies are in line with statutory guidance, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. We conduct our assemblies 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 assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school, the wider community, and specified in the Sunderland Agreed Syllabus.

### **Curriculum Links**

Collective worship serves to enrich learning through

- The use of different perspectives to enrich a specific area of learning.
- Promoting thought and understanding
- Reflection
- Joint celebration
- Learning about religious and cultural traditions
- Listening, participation, and questioning
- Reflection on values of behaviour

### **Organisation of collective worship**

Class based: a daily prayer or reflective time as appropriate

Whole school based: weekly

Family based: at least once a term

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We utilise a variety of teaching and learning styles that meet the needs of the pupils and assist understanding and participation through the use of Makaton signing and symbols. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Assemblies may be taken by any member of teaching staff. Where possible, the head or deputy and senior leaders will attend. Themes for special and family assemblies and the lead person for that assembly are agreed on an annual basis.

All acts of collective worship will be considered carefully in order to ensure that age, aptitude and backgrounds of pupils be taken into account. Assemblies will be planned on an annual basis and will follow the following format:

- Weekly 'good work' assemblies (Friday morning). These assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children throughout the previous week. They also provide a set time for 'reflection' and to sing a range of songs representing different genre as part of the format.
- Termly/half termly Religious/cultural festival/celebrations that embrace a wide range of cultures/religions. These celebrations will be of a practical nature and involve 'hands on' engagement from all pupils wherever possible.
- Topical issues as and when they arise.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time and we have termly 'family' assemblies where parents are encouraged to take an active part.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly. 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.

***Monitoring and review***

It is the role of the governing body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. This will be reported on an annual basis.