

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



1. Introduction

1.1. The legal requirements governing Collective Worship are that ‘all pupils in attendance..... shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship’ unless ‘the parents request that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school’ (1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3)). This need not take place with the whole school together, but may take place in classes or groups of pupils.

1.2. This policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

1.3. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the teaching staff.

2. Aims

Religious

2.1. To enable pupils to appreciate how ritual, symbolism and religious language are used to express feelings, faith, and believers’ acknowledgement of something beyond themselves and the material world.

2.2. To provide an opportunity for pupils to become more familiar with the nature and expectations of a worshipful situation by encouraging an attitude characterised by feelings such as wonder, reverence, appreciation, awe, elation, gratitude, etc.

Personal

2.3. To provide the opportunity for pupils to make a personal response to the stimulus within the activity of collective school worship through developing in pupils an ability to use silence for stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.

2.4. To encourage and deepen pupil’s spiritual development through heightening awareness of their own inner life and encouraging appreciation of their personal worth and value.

2.5. To offer opportunities to consider and reflect upon spiritual and moral issues, including their personal beliefs and responses to life’s questions, mysteries and dilemmas.

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Educational

2.6. To heighten pupils' awareness of aspects of the natural world including a sense of the order, rhythm and change in the world and our own lives, the nature and importance of our relationship to our world and a sense of life's mysteries and ultimate questions.

2.7. To encourage a search for truth based on reason, evidence, experience and insight.

School

2.8. To celebrate achievements, special occasions, difference and diversity within the school and wider community.

2.9. To promote and develop a sense of common purpose and spirit within the school community through making explicit the school's shared values and ethos and encouraging the development of positive relationships within school and with the local community.

Social and Cultural

2.10. To familiarise pupils with some contexts and understandings of worship as part of their preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

2.11. To encourage appreciation of the place of worship in local and national cultural and social life.

2.12. To raise awareness of the diversity of worship within different societies and cultures.

3. Entitlement

3.1. Section 9 of the 1988 Education Reform Act lays down that in county schools, parents have the right to withdraw their children from the worship, or certain acts of worship, if they so wish. Should parents wish to exercise this right they must, in the first instance, seek a meeting with the Headteacher. The act of worship is central to the life of the school and, as it is so sensitively approached in our school, we do not anticipate that parents will exercise this right. Rather we expect that parents enrolling their children at school will want them to fully participate in the whole life of this school community. Worship is not to be seen as an occasion for evangelism.

3.2. In planning worship, all the ages of pupils will be taken into account, their aptitudes and their family backgrounds.

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4. Implementation

4.1. A wide range of people lead worship in our school: the headteacher, rector, teaching staff and children lead worship each week.

4.2. Each term families and friends are warmly welcomed to share in our act of worship in Uffington Parish Church led either by the rector, representatives of the church or members of staff.

4.3. Each term, one class leads whole school worship in church. Families and friends are invited to join us.

4.4. The school is invited each year to join in the celebration of Harvest Festival and Easter at Uffington Parish Church, and alternate years to celebrate Mothering Sunday at either Uffington or Tallington. Members of the local community are also warmly welcomed at any of the school acts of collective worship, including celebrations of Christingle, Candlemas and Rogationtide.

4.5. Collective Worship is very varied; weekly themes are largely based upon the Liturgical Calendar, and also incorporate special events in the Christian calendar, Saints' Days and events of national and international importance such as Remembrance. The school aims to celebrate the Eucharist at least once a year. In doing so, it seeks to accustom the children to the traditions, ceremonies, symbols, heritage, rituals and festivals of the Anglican Church.

4.6. From time to time members of different faiths, churches and traditions will be invited to lead our worship.

4.7. Collective Worship in its broadest sense involves a variety of activities such as prayer, praise, reflection, a sense of community, sharing common values, the power of the spoken word and ritual. There will be times when the worship is quiet, contemplative and serene, at other times it will involve loud music and laughter. The mixture needs to be creative and varied, joyful and reverent, active and reflective. Children can contribute to this variety by being involved in numerous ways.

4.8. Christians worship in a variety of ways. Even within the Anglican tradition there is a diversity of practice which should be recognised. Certain beliefs are common to all Christians and these have always been expressed in worship. At the core of these beliefs is the understanding of God as Trinity: Belief in God as Creator; Belief in Jesus; and Belief in the Holy Spirit.

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Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher and staff will review this policy biennially. Any suggested amendments will be presented to the Governing Body at their first meeting following review.

Policy reviewed by the headteacher and Foundation Governors	February 2018
Policy reviewed	June 2020
Next review	June 2022