

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



**Learning, Developing, Growing Together**

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| Signed:      | <b>Y Manns</b>  |
| Position:    | <b>Governor</b> |

## **Collective Worship Policy**

The collective worship policy at Spinfield School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the local authority through its SACRE.

Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

### **Aims of collective worship**

Collective worship in Spinfield School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together eg festivals, school values, individual achievements
- build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;
- develop a reflective approach to living which sometimes encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable
- worship God or reflect on human values;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- consider British values and understand what it means to be a Global Citizen
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

### **Statutory requirements**

By law, Collective Worship must:

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents every day
- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils

This means that collective worship should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Not every act of collective worship needs to comply with this, provided that, taking any school term as a whole, most such acts which take place in the school do comply.

The Collective Worship Policy of Spinfield School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

#### The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in Spinfield School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

#### **The Management of Collective Worship**

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body.

The following arrangements exist to coordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

1. HT/DHT/AHT/KS leaders/delegated teacher draws up a rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week.
2. HT/DHT/delegated teacher observes at least 6 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per year to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.
3. Teacher, pupil and, where appropriate, parental views are collected annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved.
4. During the covid 19 pandemic, or any sustained period of remote learning where it is impossible for children to meet collectively, collective worship will take place in classrooms led by the class teacher or via online video links. These could be provided by an online provider, recorded in advance by a member of staff or live streamed into classrooms.

#### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective worship generally takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, or one of the multi-purpose rooms, or the classroom.

Acts of worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

#### **Leadership**

Every member of the school staff, pupils and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

#### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and can ask for given guidance.

Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

### **The Act of Collective Worship**

We use a variety of styles, activities and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship.

Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils.

Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate.

Our prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus as this is inclusive of the beliefs of our non-Christian religious pupils.

We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Collective worship should not be confused with assembly. We often take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices.

Using a variety of strategies e.g. music, silence etc. we indicate clearly to all present when worship begins and ends.

### **Withdrawal**

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life.

We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Headteacher in writing so that school records are accurate.

We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible.

Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff.