



Collective Worship Policy

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School Business Manager:		Date:	08/04/2025
Headteacher:		Date:	09/05/2025

Date of Next Review:	November 2026
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This policy has been adopted and adapted from the Model Collective Worship Policy for Primary Schools September 2015) and the Hertfordshire SACRE Enhancing collective worship and RE (January 2020).

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1. Background to collective worship at our school

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

At Amwell View School some pupils are from practising Christian families, in addition, there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Parents of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from worship.

2. Collective worship

Worship from a faith tradition has a very specific definition. A school community is not a worshipping community and the law recognises this by requiring “collective” not “corporate” worship. Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worth-ship. This might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to God and/or people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

3. Worship of a broadly Christian character

The majority of acts of worship must be of a “broadly Christian character”, and those that are must reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominational. Paragraphs 60-63 of the DFE Circular 1/94 asks schools to define this as according a special status to Jesus Christ.

If we are to be inclusive in our worship in this school, taking the family backgrounds of the children into consideration, then, when according a special status to Jesus Christ, all pupils, whatever their beliefs, need to be respected. It is therefore appropriate in this school to tell stories of the life of Jesus, but inappropriate for all children to be required to address Him in prayer.



Many of the characteristics of Christianity are shared by all the faiths. It is important to concentrate on these as well as those specific to Christianity.

4. Values and aims

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens our aims in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

The promotion of spiritual (not synonymous with religious), moral, social and cultural development, which includes:

- Recognise the uniqueness of each individual
- Being creative
- Developing positive attitudes and hope

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

5. Objectives

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- celebrate special occasions together
- show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society



- reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn....;
- reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

6. Collective Worship and the Curriculum

Guidance for collective worship time is that it is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education, however, at Amwell View School, in order to meet the needs of the pupils' collective worship is embedded within the curriculum.

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.

7. Planning

In this school we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. The whole school meets on a Friday afternoon between 3:00-3:15pm for a whole school assembly. On a Thursday afternoon 3:00-3:15pm Lower and Upper School alternate assemblies.

The Headteacher usually leads the whole school assembly. Pupils in the Upper School are encouraged to take an active part in both planning and leadership for their assemblies. Lower School pupils take it in turns to select songs to be sung in their assemblies. Both assemblies are opportunities to share personal and educational achievements.

Special Assemblies

Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College hold special assemblies throughout the academic year. During these assemblies pupils and staff sing and sign songs relevant to the celebration. These include:

- Christmas
- Easter
- Harvest Festival
- Remembrance

To celebrate pupils' achievements the school holds class Achievement Assemblies when parents and carers are invited to celebrate with the pupils and staff in the school.

Throughout the week pupils are given opportunities for stillness and silence through Mindfulness sessions. This is an opportunity for children to regulate and be calm. The curriculum offers opportunities for pupils to select books and stories with religious content from the school library and opportunities to create religious art work celebrating a diverse range of religions.



8. Success criteria

At this school evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- positive response to shared experience
- an atmosphere which matches the theme
- a contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- a sense of occasion
- good order
- staff affirmation
- a sense of challenge
- a place in the overall plan of the school
- enrichment of pupil's experience



ANNEX A – Hertfordshire SACRE: Collective Worship Guidance

Introduction

Part of the role of Hertfordshire SACRE is to support, offer guidance and to monitor collective worship. The guidelines are designed to support all those who have responsibility for Collective worship in maintained schools without a religious character throughout Hertfordshire.

The guidelines will be of particular interest to governors, headteachers, those with responsibility for the delivery and co-ordination of Collective Worship, faith leaders and all who participate in daily acts of school Collective Worship.

Aims of the guidelines:

- To help schools meet their statutory requirements for collective worship
- To assist schools in the development of acts of Collective Worship which are educationally worthwhile
- To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To aid schools in preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life as young citizens living in a multicultural and multifaith society.



[**Link to Hertfordshire SACRE Guidelines**](#)