



ENSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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 reflect or worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It also allows them to extend and consolidate their knowledge and understanding of British Values.

Within the school and for children this meeting is referred to as “Assembly”.

Legal Requirement

Our policy on Collective Worship is guided by the legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act and confirmed in the 1996 Education Act which requires that all pupils at a maintained school should take part in an act of Collective Worship each school day, which should be of a broadly Christian character. An act of worship is such if it “reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.” Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they must take account of pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. Our teachers and children come from a variety of backgrounds, and we seek to ensure that our assemblies are inclusive and sensitive to the needs of all participants.

Aims

- To provide opportunities to enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To enable pupils to come together and to recognise and celebrate their role in the school community.
- To celebrate achievements
- To reflect on and respond to the needs and concerns of the school community.
- To be aware of and respond to life experiences and the questions they raise.
- To help children to realise the importance of listening to and considering the views and comments of others.
- To come together as a school to take time to reflect on the meaning of beliefs and values held by the wider community.
- To allow time to reflect and question own beliefs and values.
- To learn about significant religious events and celebrations relating to different faiths.
- To provide an opportunity for silent reflection.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time; however, it will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in class. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should 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.

The Management of Collective Worship (Assemblies)

The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership team manage and lead assemblies. The Parish Priest leads an assembly approximately once per half term. Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will also be involved in leading assemblies at some point in the school year. This could be through class assemblies, School Council or Eco Council presentations or subject-specific assemblies.

The Organisation of Collective Worship (Assemblies)

Assemblies generally take place in the school hall at the beginning of the school day and last for approximately 20 minutes.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and occasionally prayer (if appropriate to family background). The decision as to whether or not join in with prayer is made by the children: respectful and silent withdrawal is offered as an option.

Equal Opportunities

Collective Worship in our school is available to all, with equal and appropriate access to children of both sexes, all races, all faiths and all abilities.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from Collective Worship will be supervised and given an alternative activity to undertake.

Date Adopted: March 2024

Review Date: March 2027

Signature of Chair of Governors:



Signature of Headteacher:

