



# Collective Worship Policy

Date adopted: October 2010

History of most recent policy reviews

Date	Review	Who is Responsible?
December 2014	Revision of the previous policy to ensure statutory compliance	Full Governing Body
November 2016	References to names be removed	Standards Committee

## AIR BALLOON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Collective Worship Policy

At Air Balloon Hill Primary School, collective worship is set within the context of 'Assemblies' – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.

Worship has a wide range of meanings and forms of expression. For some people this might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth.

Air Balloon Hill Primary School's Collective Worship Policy seeks to reflect and reinforce the schools aims and ethos. The common strands are:

- care and support;
- respect and responsibility;
- reflective self-development; and
- relationships.

### Aims and Purpose of this policy

In keeping with the aims, Collective Worship at Air Balloon Hill Primary School is planned to:

- Provide an all-inclusive opportunity to build and reinforce community values, a shared sense of belonging by coming together to celebrate the values and ethos of the school and community.
- Reflect on and understand elements of life which are of value and worth.
- Share concern for the needs of others locally, nationally and globally; share insight about the varied aspects of life and the ability to foster empathy for others.
- Contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together.
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions the wider community and for them to contribute to the life of the school.

- Provide opportunities for worshipping God, reverences, celebration and reflection; enabling pupils to reflect on broadly Christian and other spiritual values and beliefs.
- Provide a worthwhile educational experience which takes account of pupils' age, aptitude and family background.
- Provide a worship experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths.
- Provide pupils with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to".
- Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.

### **The School Community**

Our school community is made up of people from many different religions and cultures. Assemblies are mainly of a broadly Christian character but will from time-to-time reflect the other religious backgrounds represented in the school community; they are conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

We are proud of the diversity of our school community and for the majority of the time, acts of collective worship will draw from the teachings and morals of Christianity and reflect on Christian principles but not necessarily Christian worship practices; however, we will also hold assemblies that reflect and celebrate the traditions of the other main religions, particularly those that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Assemblies are regarded as a special time in the day of calm reflection and are conducted accordingly. Children are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully and are asked to come in and leave assemblies quietly.

### **Collective Worship at Air Balloon Hill Primary School**

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in a daily act of collective worship. These will normally be in the form of assemblies which are conducted as separate key stage assemblies, with their times varying accordingly. On days where there are no planned assemblies, pupils will participate in an act of collective worship or time of quiet reflection in

their classrooms allowing children's bodies and spirits time to breathe, offering space and stillness at the end of the day.

Acts of collective worship will seek to involve all pupils, including those who have different or no religious beliefs and will be used to encourage pupils to come together and allow them to reflect upon their shared human experience and feelings of joy and sadness, thankfulness and need, their reflections on shared values and concerns and the exploration of the spiritual area of experience.

The programme of Collective Worship at this school is arranged so that in any one term most acts of Collective Worship will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and practice. Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding, each week, achievement assemblies, during which children can show their work and successes to others. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos and cultural diversity of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued.

### **Collective Worship Programme**

According to the government guidance (circular 1/94):

- 'Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs' (para 50). This advice is put into practice in our programme.
- 'Worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power' (para 57). Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by asking children to reflect quietly.
- 'An act of worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief need not contain only Christian material. It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ' (para 63).

Material for assemblies comes from a wide variety of sources including Christian. Most assemblies in any term reflect traditions of Christian belief and the special status accorded to Jesus Christ.

Christian beliefs centre on such themes as the creation, the fall, the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the kingdom of God. From these themes spring broad areas of spiritual and moral concern to all people: ecology, pollution, stewardship of resources, prejudice, cruelty, war and alienation, justice, peace and harmony. Assemblies that raise these issues provide opportunities for 'broadly Christian' Collective Worship as well as stimulating all young people to reflect, to feel awe, to learn to be still and to consider the direction and meaning of their lives.

Assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher, deputy head or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by visitors to the school.

Assemblies are planned every term on a thematic basis, with each theme lasting for several weeks. Themes are of a broadly Christian nature but allow for flexibility and variety of delivery in order to recognise and celebrate other world religions at appropriate times during the year.

A variety of presentation methods will be used to engage the students and evoke a response during acts of collective worship, including:

- **silence:** stilling, time for reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer.
- **the spoken word:** through story, current news items, poetry, personal experiences and anecdotes, interviews, discussion, readings from religious and non - religious texts, thoughts for today quotations, prayers, guided fantasy, visualisation, etc.
- 
- **music:** hymns, pop songs, folk songs, classical, etc;
- **visual features:** art, posters, photographs, artefacts both religious and non - religious, toys, use of digital presentations, video recordings, slides, etc;
- **performance:** dance, drama, improvisation, stunts, puppets, etc;
- **visitors:** focussing their talks on inspirational human qualities such as courage, ability to forgive, perseverance, bring happiness or relief to others;

## **Positive Educational Outcomes**

The school believes that Collective Worship provide the following positive educational outcomes for pupils and staff:

- whole community celebration;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership; and
- developing inner awareness.

## **Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which, in community schools, should not be distinctive of the tradition and practice of particular religious denominations.

In community schools Collective Worship is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.' The programme of Collective Worship at this School is arranged so that in any one term most acts of Collective Worship will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and practice.

## **Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example when using a prayer from a particular faith, this is introduced with sensitivity and pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers which they do not believe.

There may be parts of an assembly, for example when a Christian hymn is sung or birthdays are celebrated, in which a pupil does not wish to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to withdraw from a part of the assembly by not participating.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and may make a request for their child/ren to be wholly or partly excused from attendance at any religious worship at school. Teachers, including Headteachers, have the same right of withdrawal.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non - participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

In community schools Collective Worship is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.' The programme of Collective Worship at this School is arranged so that in any one term most acts of Collective Worship will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and practice.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by the senior leadership team.

**Paired Year group Assemblies** are held once a week. These are taken by the Head and Deputy Heads. The assemblies generally follow themes that are aligned to the delivery of personal and social development programmes, although topical or other relevant issues may be picked up as appropriate. The content of these assemblies would be varied but include a significant Christian input within any term.

**Key stage assemblies** happen twice a week, one led by a class to which the parents are invited, the other being a singing assembly

**Class Teacher-led Reflections** - Each week pupils meet in class groups for this act of reflection or discussion about a moral issue.

### **Visitors:**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to

adopt a particular religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

**Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship:**

Certain named individuals [Rev Trev, Jordan and Michelle from St Aidans and Open Air Campaigners] are involved on a regular basis with the assembly programme. Other staff are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

**Monitoring and Review**

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor and review the policy and practice of collective worship in the school and this will be carried out at regular intervals during the academic year by the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Link Governor.

Approved at the Full Governing Body meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
Review Period – 2 years