

Collective Worship Policy

Westbrook Primary School



Approved by:	Governors	Date: 23.01.2025
Last reviewed on:	23.01.2025	
Next review due by:	February 2028	

1 Introduction

1.1 In our school we endeavour to promote a child's spiritual moral and social development as well as their formal education. Through our daily act of collective worship we introduce children to the act of reflection and the concept of spirituality. Worship is normally carried out during school assemblies held each morning. Sometimes collective worship can take place in classrooms when school assemblies are not possible. We recognise that not all assemblies contain an act of worship.

1.2 We believe this policy should be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos, enables consistency and quality across the school and is related to the following legislation:

- Education Act 1944
- Education Reform Act 1988
- Education Act 1993
- Education (Special Schools) Regulations 1994
- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

- Religious Education and Collective Worship (Circular Number 1/94) (DfE)
- Equality Act 2010: Advice for Schools (DfE)
- Race Disparity Audit - Summary Findings from the Ethnicity Facts and Figures Website (Cabinet Office)

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are to:

- provide an opportunity for children to reflect;
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- encourage participation and response;
- develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", we normally base our assemblies on themes that are common to most religions e.g. 'respect', 'hope', 'judgement' etc. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

- 2.3 While some acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each daily assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly (although sometimes we also hold separate infant and junior assemblies), or a class assembly.
- 3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in acts of reflection. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- 3.3 Assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups and other organisations that are sometimes invited into school.
- 3.4 Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.

4 Assemblies

- 4.1 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. We believe we are a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- 4.2 Each week, there is a particular assembly that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- 4.3 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

5 Right of withdrawal

- 5.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 5.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

6 Monitoring and review

- 6.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the Chair of Governors, who is also responsible for the school policy for religious education. The CoG liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.
- 6.2 This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if necessary.