

CORSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy



Reviewed: November 2021

Policy Ratified by the LGC: January 2022

Next Review Date: November 2024

Corsham Primary School Collective Worship Policy

For the purpose of collective worship, the staff of Corsham Primary School has agreed the following:

The act of worship in school is to be an act of collective worship. This should occur when pupils of different beliefs and attitudes gather to share values and experiences. It is not to be equated with an act of corporate worship, where participants share the same faith.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary gives its first definition of 'worship' as: "*worthiness, merit, recognition given or due to these, honour and respect*".

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child article 14 states that 'Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights'.

At Corsham Primary we believe that worship is "a celebration of worth". As a result, our worship will be a celebration of the aspirations, ideas, truths and inspiration found around us in our school members, our community and faiths.

We believe that an act of worship has taken place where there is the following:

- 1 When people together are expressing what they commonly believe to be of worth.
- 2 The discussion of issues such as:
 - moral dimensions
 - caring for others
 - serving the community
 - sharing
 - citizenship
 - emotional literacy
- 3 Respect for other people's beliefs.
- 4 Celebration of what is of value to an individual, the school, the community and to groups of people e.g. a festival.
- 5 Assemblies should contain any of the following:
 - appropriate songs
 - listening to appropriate music
 - sharing stories, creative writing and poetry
 - appropriate drama or role play
 - appreciation of others beliefs and viewpoints through various forms of art.
- 6 Prayer, meditation or reflection on subject matter already discussed.
- 7 Celebration recognising religious festivals or focus on stories from a particular religion (especially Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jewish).
- 8 Religious clothing and artefacts – consideration and examination of clothing or artefacts used for prayer or religious purposes.

It is important that everybody present should have the opportunity to be involved. Not everyone needs to be involved in the same way. On occasion, some may participate and others may take on the observer's role.

The recording of Acts of Worship which are class based are made on the assembly record sheet or on the foundation planning sheet and kept in the fortnightly planning file.

Hall assemblies are recorded centrally either by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and are kept in the Head's office.

To comply with the requirement of the 1988 Education Reform Act that there is "daily collective worship" the following programme has been agreed:

At Pound Pill:

Monday:	Class based assembly
Tuesday:	Class based assembly
Wednesday:	2.30-3 Family assembly HT
Thursday:	2.15-3 commendation assembly HT/DHT

At Broadwood:

Monday:	Whole School – 14:30- HoS
Tuesday:	Class based Assemblies
Wednesday:	Class based Assemblies
Thursday:	Curriculum Enrichment alternating Key Stage 1/2- 14:30. Class based assembly alternating KS 1/2.
Friday:	Whole school Rewards and Commendations – 14:30 – HTs

Class collective worship needs to contain Christian content and elements of awe and wonder. It may take place at any time during the day at the teacher's convenience. Class assemblies should be planned with your year group partner but delivered to the two classes separately.

During whole school collective worship children are asked to be silent for a short time to reflect on the theme or to have their own private thoughts. The system adopted by the school for denoting the start of the "prayer" is when the candle is lit for "thinking time". This provides children with a point of focus during this important part of assembly (collective worship).

Each year group will focus on their enquiry for that term and will organise a special assembly for the rest of the children. Parents and friends of the school will be invited for this occasion.

Appropriately trained members of the community will be invited into school to deliver special assemblies. These assemblies are vetted for content and designed to support the school's aims and objectives.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child or children from acts of collective worship. Parents must put their request to the Headteacher who will then make the necessary arrangements to have the child cared for during assembly times.

Success criteria

- Acts of collective worship have taken place (HT, DHT and class teacher planning).
- Appropriately trained members of the community have delivered assemblies (HT planning).
- Year group assemblies have taken place (Monthly Newsletters).
- All children have had the opportunity to take part in acts of collective worship (pupil conferencing).

Equal Opportunities

When writing and reviewing this policy staff have completed an Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment in order to ensure it complies with equality obligations outlined in anti-discrimination

legislation. We believe the policy positively reflects the aims and ambitions identified in Corsham Primary's Single Equality Scheme.

Rights of the Child

Corsham Primary is a UNICEF *Rights Respecting School* which promotes the Convention of the Rights of the Child. This policy underpins Article 29 of the convention:

Aims of Education: Education shall aim at developing the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and shall foster in the child respect for his or her parents, for his or her cultural identity, language and values and for the cultural background and values of others.