



# Collective Worship Policy

## What do we mean by Collective Worship at Abbey Road Primary School?

Collective worship comes in many forms. At Abbey Road we view collective worship as an opportunity to reflect and grow – supporting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Although there is an obligation on the school to ensure that worship is of a predominantly Christian nature, at our school we want to ensure that children of all beliefs and faiths can practise and express their beliefs. This includes children who are agnostic or atheist. We apply a clear distinction between spirituality and religion. We also actively encourage opportunities to explore the faiths and practice of other religions and cultures. Collective worship provides explicit opportunities to address issues of cultural significance and promote community cohesion.

Worship has to do with worth and worthiness. It is recognising, affirming and celebrating that which is worthy of honour and respect - ideals and the highest achievements of which humanity is capable, matters of truth, goodness and beauty, an appreciation of the world, a recognition of the interdependence of human beings, a response to the plight of those in need. We attempt to achieve a real sense of purpose by sensitively trying to evoke those senses and feelings from which it might be said that worship most naturally arises.

Worship is also a key device to explore and promote the school 'Take Care' values and British values.

## **Abbey Road Take Care Values**

We take care of ourselves – we are **independent** and **resilient**

We take care of each other – we are **kind** and **friendly**

We take care of our work – we are **ambitious** and **creative**

We take care of our world – we are **responsible** and **respectful**

## **British Values**

Democracy

Rule of Law

Mutual respect and tolerance

Individual liberty

## **Aims and Purpose**

During collective worship we aim to:

- Fulfil statutory requirements of a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian character, and on our own beliefs
- Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together.
- Allow some time for reflection and stillness.
- Provide opportunities in which pupils interact with other year groups, staff and on occasions, the wider community.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Provide and promote opportunities for how to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in a larger social gathering.
- Create valuable learning experiences and, where possible, valuable links to our RE and PSHE curriculum.
- Provide an opportunity to celebrate the academic, social, personal and sporting achievements of the children.

## **Inclusive Worship**

Inclusion is about allowing all children to participate. For collective worship this is about ensuring that everybody actively participates and benefits whilst allowing children of particular faiths to practise their beliefs. We want our collective worship to recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, lifestyles and religions which exist in our multi-cultural society.

Our key principles are:

- We should create an atmosphere in which all feel valued and safe.
- It should be suitable for every child to attend, unless withdrawn by their parent or carer.
- Collective worship will focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to our children.
- When prayers are used, we should make it clear that all children can join in if they wish to, or quietly reflect on the focus of our collective worship.

## **Prayer**

Reading a prayer can be appropriate as long as the integrity of all those present is respected. Prayer may be part of the period of reflection and stillness with children invited to participate in prayer if they wish.

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

A prayer may be introduced like this: 'I am going to share a prayer with you. I would like you to think carefully about the words. Some of you might wish to make the words your own - Christians might do this by saying 'Amen', which means I agree.'

## **Singing**

The act of singing can be a very positive opportunity for celebration or reflection. The selection of songs will respect the integrity of those present. In order to comply with statutory requirements, Singing assemblies will include an opportunity for pupils to reflect on some of the words they are singing.

## **Content**

The content of an assembly may reflect any of the following:

- marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect a diversity of faiths.
- examples of lives of inspiring people
- stories supporting themes from a range of sources and cultures
- response to key local, national and international events
- an opportunity to think about our own beliefs
- promotion of school 'Take Care' values and British Values
- putting things into practice eg: supporting charities
- providing a moment for silent reflection/prayer
- celebration of successes of members of the school community
- performances or presentations from members of the school community
- input from visiting speakers

## **Celebrating Achievements**

Assemblies may also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding celebration assemblies, during which children may show their work and share successes with 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 of the school - that all children and their achievements are valued.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in a daily assembly. An assembly may involve all of the pupils in the school, separate key stages or class assemblies. For some whole school and key stage assemblies, staff are encouraged to stay with the children in order to promote a sense of community.

Our assembly timetable is as follows:

*Monday:* 9.20 - Whole school assembly, led by Head Teacher  
*Tuesday:* 9.20 – Phase group assembly (EYFS/KS1, Lower KS2, Upper KS2) – led by Phase Leaders  
*Wednesday:* 9.20 – KS2 Singing Assembly – Mr Marshall 10.15 – KS1 Singing Assembly – Mrs Poole  
*Thursday:* Class/Year Group Assembly  
*Friday:* Achievement Assembly (9.00 - EYFS/KS1 9.20 - KS2)

Class/year group/Key Stage assemblies are valuable because:

- Children can be given greater opportunity to participate and respond.
- Children are more likely to offer their deeper thoughts and feelings in a more intimate setting.
- Direct reference can be made to the children's work in curriculum areas.
- Stimulus material can be closely matched to the children's age and abilities.

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

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from parts or all acts of collective worship. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Parents/carers do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal, but to avoid misunderstandings they will be invited to discuss the provision with the Headteacher around the following points:

- The religious issues about which the parents/carers would object to their child being taught.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- If a parent/carer will require advance notice of such issues in the future and if so, how much.
- Withdrawal from Christmas productions and other religious festivals and celebrations.

To be reviewed March 2025