

Article 14: 'Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.' (UN Conventions on the rights of a child)

Collective Worship			V1.0
	Date	Name	Notes
Drafted			
Adopted	23 rd Nov 2009	PPC	
Reviewed	21st Jan 2014	PPC	
Reviewed	12 th Jan 2018	PPC	J Murray
Reviewed			
This policy will be reviewed every 3 years			

Aim

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Learn about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and how to respect these rights
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents - see below). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Collective worship in foundation schools with a religious character and voluntary schools will be in accordance with the school's trust deed. Where provision is not made by a trust deed, the worship should be in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified for the school.

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- Include a variety of elements at different times
- Involve the pupils.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

The right of parents to withdraw their child.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education (RE) and collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE or collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn.

A school remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from RE or collective worship, unless the child is lawfully receiving RE, or taking part in collective worship elsewhere.

Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The DfES recommends that, to avoid misunderstanding, a head teacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- The religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents wishes
- If a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much