



West Winch Primary School Collective Worship Policy 2017

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

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

Collective Worship

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. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

We hold assemblies that maybe Christian in character or reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community. Some of our assemblies are secular and focus on themes such as: praise, reflection, celebration, courtesy, friendship, tolerance, personal differences, sharing and cooperation, respect and acceptance, caring for others and the school, fair play and sportsmanship, consideration for others, emotions, right and wrong, and other special assemblies as they arise. We have chosen these elements because we believe they are important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate for all pupils and adults in our community.

Organization of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly, although sometimes we also hold separate Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assemblies.

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 and to listen carefully. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy, representatives of local religious groups or other visitors conduct them instead.

We often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Assemblies may also focus on fund-raising, charities, world events or other appropriate themes.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. West Winch Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

Adopted: Spring 2017
Review: Spring 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Habbin', with a stylized flourish extending to the left.

Heather Habbin - Chair of Governing Body