

ALDER COPPICE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Achievement through Commitment

Collective Worship Policy

Policy for the Attention of			
<i>Audience</i>	<i>Key Audience</i>	<i>Optional Audience</i>	<i>Additional/Notes</i>
Senior Leadership Team	✓		
Teachers	✓		
Teaching Assistants	✓		
Administrative Staff	✓		
Curriculum Support	✓		
Lunchtime Supervisors	✓		
Site Manager	✓		
Cleaners	✓		
Governors	✓		
Parents	✓		
Website	✓		
Local Authority		✓	

Policy Updated – Summer 2021 ~ Review Date – Summer 2024

Definition of Collective Worship

'Worship comes from the same root as the word 'worthy'. As act of worship can mean the celebration of, or honour paid to, or service offered to those people or things which are considered worthy. It can, of course, also mean paying homage to a divine power of being.'

(Berkshire County Council)

Philosophy

Collective Worship is a special time of coming together as a whole School, where the children and staff are given a sense of belonging. In 'worshipping' we reflect upon and praise the achievements of others, appreciate the natural and human made world and think about our purpose and influence in the midst of it, drawing mainly on the Christian values and beliefs of a Creator God, the teachings and example of Jesus Christ and the supremacy of love.

School Worship and Assembly are distinct activities:

Collective Worship	Assembly
A gathering of children and staff to explore or respond to deeply held beliefs and values through a range of activities.	A gathering of children and staff for the purpose of notices, announcements and administrative arrangements relating to the organisation and management of the School.

Main Legal Requirement

Current legislation requires a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils.

Responsibility

Responsibility for Collective Worship rests with the Headteacher, who is responsible for ensuring statutory requirements are met.

Aims of Collective Worship:

- To enhance the spiritual development of children;
- To foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence;
- To foster a reverential attitude to God;
- To explore and enjoy praise and prayer;
- To learn about Christian teaching and Biblical material;
- To enjoy and participate in Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the children's experience and to living together in a community;
- To recognise the beliefs and cultures of others, particularly those reflected in the School community;
- To develop understanding and promote tolerance towards other faiths;

- To celebrate achievements of members of the School;
- To enable pupils to reflect on their experiences of life;
- To develop a sense of community and shared values.

Guidelines for Collective Worship

An annual programme of themes is drawn up by the Headteacher. Each Term a detailed plan of the themes and stories is published.

Children should enter the hall silently and listen to the music. Collective Worship will involve:

- Singing;
- story or message;
- prayer and/or a time of reflection.

Notices will be kept to a minimum and delivered after the prayer or time of reflection or an Information Assembly will be held separately from the act of Collective Worship.

Collective Worship is led by many members of staff to reflect participation by the whole community. Opportunities will be provided for children to participate as appropriate. External visitors also help deliver the programme of Collective Worship.

Our Collective Worship should:

- Have a clear aim;
- Have a clear message;
- Have one main point;
- Be relevant;
- Be interesting;
- Be within the allocated time.

Through our Collective Worship we should aim to provide opportunities for children to:

- reflect on their value as individuals;
- recognise their responsibilities to themselves and their world;
- reflect on the awe and wonder of the world;
- develop empathy with others;
- begin to consider their own answers to ultimate questions;
- recognise that beliefs affect life and actions;
- develop an understanding of the value and significance of sacred writing, symbols and rituals;
- participate in festivals, celebrations, occasions from the Christian year and other faiths.

Right of Withdrawal

The 1998 Education Reform Act upholds the terms of the 1944 Education Act which allows parents the right to withdraw their child from part or all of the Collective Worship programme.

Any parent wishing to do so must put this in writing to the appropriate Phase Leader.