

Woodlands Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



**Woodlands Primary School
Updated November 2024
Review: November 2026**

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Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- 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;
- to teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. 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.

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

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes the form of either a whole-school assembly or key-stage assembly.

3.2 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 to the teachings and participate fully in reflection and songs.

3.3 The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead (e.g. Whitby Methodist). We also invite other guest speakers, such as representatives from, community groups such as the local police.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the SMSC/LYFTA curriculum, and 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. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. 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. Woodlands Primary School is a successful school, and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

- 3.6** Parents and governors are invited to attend special assemblies, such as end of term celebrations and class assemblies.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** 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.

- 4.2** The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** It is the role of the head teacher and a named school governor with responsibility for collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on collective worship.