

ST BENEDICT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

St. Benedict's Primary School is a Rights Respecting School and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is at the heart of everything we do.

"Enjoying our rights and fulfilling our dreams"

We believe that by understanding their own rights, children learn to respect and value the rights of others.

We aim for our children to be:

- Ambitious-To have a strong desire to achieve
- Resilient- To have the ability to withstand and bounce back from difficult life events
- Respectful- To behave in a way that shows you care about your own rights and the rights of others, the local and global community and environment.

The following articles underline our Aims;

Article 3

"The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all our actions."

Article 29

"Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment."

RATIONALE

St Benedict's Primary School will comply with the relevant legislation relating to collective worship in schools. This includes the [Education Act 1944](#) and the [Education Reform Act 1988](#). The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

All maintained schools have a statutory duty to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). In St Benedict's Primary School, this is provided through assemblies or in class gatherings.

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. The school also utilises the dispositions as set out in the Agreed Syllabus for Birmingham (2007)

Daily collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, while also being inclusive and respectful of the diverse religious and non-religious backgrounds represented in our school and the wider community. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. The school also utilises the dispositions as set out in the Agreed Syllabus for Birmingham, as advised by [Birmingham SACRE](#).

Collective Worship is distinct from curriculum Religious Education and from general school assemblies, although it may take place within assembly time.

1. Aims and purpose

- to provide an opportunity for children to meet together.
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs [and those of others] article 14
- 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 hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of all religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

2. Implementation

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to engage in meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

We fulfil this through:

- Celebration assemblies where children's achievements are recognised and valued
- Leadership assemblies, which focus on moral development and festivals
- Rights Respecting approaches – embedded throughout school life, supporting children's moral awareness

- Celebrating different festivals over the year, enabling children to consider their own cultural and spiritual beliefs in relation to others
- Incidental class discussions
- School Council / Eco Committee and pupil voice opportunities

While the majority of acts of collective worship are broadly Christian in nature, some reflect other major world faiths and non-religious worldviews represented in the school community.

3. Organisation of 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 candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children. Opportunities for stillness and reflection are provided.

Assemblies are normally conducted by a member of the leadership team or our Rights Respecting lead teachers.

Celebration assemblies take place each week to recognise children's efforts and achievements. Assemblies include celebrations and traditions from many faiths, cultures and non-religious customs. For example, St George's Day, Diwali, Mothering Sunday – Article 14.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by sharing their work and contributing ideas. Assemblies provide an opportunity to share achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children have the right to an education. Attendance is also celebrated and rewarded – Articles 24 and 28.

Whilst fully complying with the law, the school is sensitive to the fact that not all children come from religious families – Article 30. All acts of collective worship are age-appropriate, inclusive and accessible to all pupils.

4. Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during this time. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the Education Act 1944 and the Education Reform Act 1988 – Article 14.

Staff also have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship and are informed of this through the Staff Handbook.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or when updated guidance is received from the Local Authority or Birmingham SACRE.

Pupil and staff feedback will be used, where appropriate, to evaluate the impact of collective worship.

June 2026: Miss N Akhtar, RE Co- Ordinator