

Lowerhouses CE Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Working and achieving together to enrich lives and build bright futures

APPROVED – October 2022

REVIEW – October 2027

PERSON RESPONSIBLE – RE coordinator

Collective Worship

Aims:

- To provide an opportunity to express the Christian values and vision of the school as promoted through the Circle of God's Care and the curriculum.
- To allow time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues as well as explore their own beliefs.
- To provide the children with a place where a sense of awe and wonder can find expression and where imagination and aspiration is celebrated and valued.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

Definition of collective worship

For the purpose of this policy, "collective worship" is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos. To "take part" in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

Worship in our school

It is the opportunity for a group of children and adults to come together in order to share and celebrate. There will be a diversity of belief and practice amongst the audience and our act of worship should provide a focus for common beliefs and concerns. We will recognise the age ranges of the children involved and provide opportunity for quiet thought and reflection which may lead the individual child to the actual act of worship. Thus we provide the child with the opportunity to worship should they wish to take it.

When worshipping, all worshippers conduct themselves in a variety of ways. They could use silence, music, ritual, dance, poetry and creative arts. There are many ways of presenting school worship and this could include artefacts, curricular links, dance, discussion, drama, film, interviews, mime movement, music, poetry, prayer, puppets, readings, and story.

At Lowerhouses School collective worship is carried out as a whole school on a daily basis. We deliver collective worship based around themes on a half termly basis. These themes are taken from the 'Values for Life' programme and are based around our Christian Values in School; Forgiveness, Friendship, Trust, Truthfulness, Perseverance, Responsibility and Respect.

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Organisation and planning

The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing body. The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily from 2.50pm-3.10pm in the school hall. The school has a worship group that organise, plan and lead collective worship on a regular basis.

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds. The headteacher will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	Whole-school worship is delivered by the headteacher/member of the local clergy.
Tuesday	Whole-school Worship through song, is delivered by the choir leader. Prayer and reflection time is included at the end of the hymn practice.
Wednesday	A whole-school worship is delivered by a class teacher. Every half term a chosen class will deliver the worship and parents are invited.
Thursday	Whole-school worship is delivered by the headteacher based around and relevant to current affairs and topics. The worship group will deliver once a half term for family worship.
Friday	A whole-school celebration assembly is delivered a member of the SLT (Usually the HT).

Setting the scene

The value of the act of worship will, in part, be lost if an inappropriate scene is set. Prior to an act of worship we should take a few moments to collect the children together and remind them of the need to be ready for what is often referred to as assembly. The mood is set in the classroom prior to the children gathering together, in whatever grouping. It is our responsibility, as adult role models, to ensure in so much as we are able, that the children are ready and in the correct frame of mind for collective worship. The value of collective worship will be much undermined if it is prefaced by shouting and inappropriate behaviour.

We as adults need to set good examples if we want the children to sit and listen to music, then we should do so; if we want the children to treat each other with care and respect then we must do the same.

Whole school Celebration Assembly

This will be led by a member of the SLT. Each teacher will award certificates for the week. These include: Star writer awards, effort awards and lunchtime certificates. It is the public praise of a child for any achievement which adds to the value of the certificate. Shining Star certificates will also be awarded at this assembly for children who have actively displayed our Christian Values. Parents will be informed if their children are to receive an award and invited to join the assembly.

Collective Worship led by visitors

Visitors are welcomed into school to lead collective worship. This could be the NSPCC, RSPCA, Headteachers from local partnership schools, local clergy, and Hand to Mouth puppets. Visitors will all follow the school's agreed format for collective worship, but may choose to talk about specific issues (ie, important dates in the Christian calendar or related bible stories)

A file is kept to record collective worship at school. Themes for collective worship are connected to The Christian Values. Wherever possible, visitors will adhere to our long term plans for collective worship.

Right to withdraw

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion. The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme. The school will arrange for support assistants to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises. We must avoid saying "Eyes closed" at times of prayer as this makes the time inaccessible to our deaf children.

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