



Cupernham
Junior School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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This policy was updated in October 2024 and has undergone an Equalities Impact Assessment in line with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

INTRODUCTION

Collective worship is an important part of life at Cupernham Junior School as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. We value the contribution collective worship makes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children and recognise the opportunity it affords them to learn about themselves, others, the wider community and humanity as a whole.

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- develop Fundamental British Values
- consider and support children in their understanding of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- respond to the reflection offered
- develop a reflective approach to life.
- develop a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, material and the here and now.
- engender a sense of appreciation of the natural world and an understanding of its impact on our own lives and the lives of others.
- encourage children to explore their own beliefs and values and the beliefs, values and feelings of others.
- provide opportunities to celebrate achievement and to share times of celebration and special significance.
- introduce children to a variety of faiths
- give opportunities for children to contemplate with reverence and awe the meaning and mystery of human life.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1988 Education Act requires us to provide a daily act of worship for all pupils. Cupernham Junior School ensures this is provided by adhering to the requirement for worship that is “mainly of a broadly Christian character.”

At our school collective worship is defined as:

- A special experience, separate from the children's everyday experiences.
- The joining together of the school population, whether as a whole school, phase or class, in the shared reflective response to a religious, spiritual or moral idea or teaching.
- The joining together of the school population, whether as a whole school, phase or class, in the shared reflective response to a key event.
- The joining together of the school population, whether as a whole school, phase or class, in the shared celebration of events or achievements.

CONTENT AND DELIVERY

Collective worship will be engaging, informative and educational. It will be a time when ideas and beliefs are explored, discussed and developed. There will be a time for response and reflection.

Collective worship whole school, phase and class assemblies will provide children with the opportunities to:

- Mark the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community.
- Learn about the lives of people of faith and other people who work for the good of humanity or the planet.
- Listen to stories that support themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular books.
- Respond to key local, national and international events.
- Think about their own beliefs, whether religious or otherwise.
- Listen to presentations by a range of charities and support those charities.
- Celebrate the successes of members of the school community.
- Listen to input from visiting speakers and experts.
- Develop an appreciation of nature, music, literature and art.

PROCEDURES AND CONTENT

The leading of collective worship is shared between staff. Visiting speakers are invited to lead assemblies too. Songs are also practised each week.

We gather every day to celebrate being together in the school community and to reflect upon key values and themes. In our daily act of collective reflection individually or as a group, we reflect on the mystery and wonder of the known and unknown world in which we live.

Over the term the worship contains elements of a broadly Christian character though we draw upon other religions to help us develop personally, morally, socially and spiritually, as well as developing the children's appreciation and understanding of cultural capital.

Children explore a theme each week. We use stories, poetry, legends and fables, world events and real-life stories to help us to reflect on the meanings and morals of life. We may also use music, art and photographs to illustrate difficult concepts in ways in which words cannot. A few minutes will be given for all to consider and reflect silently the message of worship that day.

A termly timetable of topics and themes is drawn up to ensure appropriate coverage of themes and religions.

TIMETABLE

Monday: whole school led by Headteacher.

Tuesday: whole school Singing Assembly led by a member of Hampshire Music Service

Wednesday: whole School led by a member of SLT

Thursday: upper and lower school assemblies led by year leaders (and other staff)

Friday: whole school celebration assembly led by the Headteacher (or delegative member of SLT)

WITHDRAWAL

When parents do not wish their children to participate in collective worship they are asked to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher to discuss the matter. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship but the school is still responsible for those pupils. Teachers are required to take and attend assemblies as part of their conditions of service. However, they are not obliged to attend or participate in acts of worship. Any teacher wishing to withdraw from collective worship must discuss the matter with the Headteacher.