



Elton Primary School & Nursery

Collective Worship Policy

In our school, the wellbeing and education of all our children comes first

Reviewed	Spring 2018
Review	Spring 2020

Statutory Duty of all Schools

All maintained schools will provide daily '*collective worship*' for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within **a daily assembly**.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship **can be** of a broadly Christian character, topical, pertinent to news and current affairs, festivals in a range of religions and Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL), include Social, Moral Spiritual and cultural (SMSC) stimuli, Philosophy for Children (P4C) etc. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (The SACRE is part of the local government machinery) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Collective worship in foundation schools with a religious character and voluntary schools will be in accordance with the school's trust deed. Where provision is not made by a trust deed, the worship should be in accordance with the beliefs of the religion or denomination specified for the school.

The Collective Worship Policy at Elton Primary School and Nursery pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE.

The Collective Worship Policy of Elton Primary School and Nursery is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition of 'Collective Worship'

Collective Worship is most often known as 'assembly' in community schools such as Elton. It 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 think collaboratively through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It offers a chance in the working day to marvel at the natural wonder of the world and inspire in children a sense of awe and wider consciousness about the world and their place in it. It gives opportunity for great learning about religious texts and teachings and learning from those bodies of information also. It gives opportunity for exploring the 'affective dimension'.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Elton Primary school and nursery and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit
- learn about religious belief and learn from them
- develop perspective, understanding and tolerance

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- consider a range of cultural, spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own ideas and thoughts about spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- Reflect on religious belief of friends and others
- Think about role models and aspirations

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Elton Primary School and Nursery, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and when the whole school is involved will take place in the junior hall. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Leadership

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets (*Included in the appendix*) list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues, and will also ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance by the Headteacher on acts of Collective Worship at Elton Primary School and Nursery. Leaders from faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources may also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given in assembly then they will be of a positive nature. Announcements will be made preceding the 'act of worship', which in our community school will be a **'pause for thought'** reflecting on the theme of the assembly or pertinent issues.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.