

Thackley Primary School
Collective Worship Policy
January 2018

Statement of Intent

All pupils at Thackley Primary School are required to take part in daily collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

At Thackley Primary School, the daily act of worship is considered an integral and important part of school life. In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the daily collective worship shall be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”¹, though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is provided in regular whole-school assemblies, and is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) ‘Religious Education and Collective Worship’

Aims

Collective worship at Thackley Primary School aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual, moral and social issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- 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 a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual’s life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- 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.

Organisation and planning

- The Head of School is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the Senior Leadership team.
- An act of worship or reflection will take place daily.
- Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the Executive Headteacher or Head of School.
- The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

¹ DfE (1994) ‘Religious Education and Collective Worship’, pg.21, para.60
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- The Head of School 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.

Weekly collective worship programme

The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Day	Delivery of programme
Monday	A whole-school assembly is delivered by the Executive Headteacher, Head of School, or members of the Leadership team on a rota basis
Tuesday	Class assemblies are delivered on a rota basis so each class does two assemblies a year. The themes for these assemblies are usually related to the current work in class. Parents are invited to attend.
Wednesday	Whole-school singing practice is delivered by the music leader, assisted by other members of staff.
Thursday	No whole school assembly
Friday	A whole-school Celebration assembly is delivered by the Executive Headteacher or Head of School.

Throughout the year there may also be other special assemblies such as Harvest festival, Easter, Safer Internet Day and so on which may be delivered by visitors or other members of staff.

Implementation

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, shared or written prayers, etc.

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 Executive Headteacher or Head of School 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 Executive Headteacher or Head of School and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

The Executive Headteacher or Head of School 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:

- 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 learning mentors to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Executive Headteacher and Head of School in agreement with the governing body.

The scheduled review date for this policy is January 2019.