



Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by Governing Body: 25.11.97

Reviewed by Governing Body: 21.05.19

Date of next review: May 2022

Statutory Policy: No

Aims

At Pitcheroak School collective worship aims to be:

- An enriching experience for pupils and staff
- An opportunity to explore ideas, beliefs and feelings
- An enjoyable and stimulating experience
- An opportunity for pupils to participate and respond
- A forum to promote community spirit and a common ethos with shared values
- An opportunity to teach pupils how to worship

Legislation requires that acts of worship in schools should be "*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.*"

In order to achieve our aims we will:

- ensure that all staff and pupils have the opportunity to attend assemblies (unless withdrawn by their parents/ carers)
- acknowledge that members of the school community come from a range of Christian churches as well as from other faiths or no faith at all
- ensure that acts of collective worship give pupils opportunities to reflect on issues of self-awareness and self-esteem
- ensure that acts of collective worship present pupils with opportunities to consider and experience areas of transcendence and spirituality

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold assemblies on a weekly basis for both the Primary Department and the Secondary Department. There are also occasions when separate Key Stage assemblies take place. On other days pupils participate in Circle Time or reflective sessions in class. We take the themes for our assemblies from the following:

- Traditions of the Christian Faith
- Topics from the school and RE curriculum
- Aspects of the PSHE curriculum
- The achievements and learning of the children

We use assemblies as an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of school.

We invite parents, carers and friends to assemblies as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way home and school work together to support the achievements of pupils.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all pupils to attend assembly. However, any parent or carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned.

This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was re-stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Daily Collective Worship

Class teachers are encouraged to discuss a 'Thought of the Day' as part of daily registration or planned in to a PSHE or circle time session.