



Collective Worship Policy

Riverside Federation

Approved by:	Executive Head Teacher
Last reviewed:	Spring 2022
Next review due:	Spring 2025

This policy is in support of the Riverside Federation's vision:
Small schools providing opportunity, delivering challenge, building respect.

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of Collective Worship in our school. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Executive Head Teacher and all teaching staff.

2. The Nature of Collective Worship

It is a legal requirement that schools provide an act of Collective Worship each day for all pupils. (Education Reform Act 1988). Our acts of worship will be in accordance with the faith and practices of the Church of England.

We understand that 'Collective' means that the worship is appropriate to a group whose members may have different beliefs. In collective worship, children and adults will be responding to the worship on offer in different ways and at different levels. As it is such an important part of our school life, it is vital that collective worship is an experience in which all members of the school community can participate and from which all gain, no matter what their personal commitment or beliefs.

We understand worship to mean attributing honour, value and worth. In Christian worship this would focus on God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

3. Aims of our Collective Worship

- To provide an opportunity to reflect on the nature of God
- To develop and nurture the spiritual dimensions through experiencing worship and to foster feeling of awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major and other Christian festivals.
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions/realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect on these and to support the search for meaning.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God and to the community and to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To establish and reinforce the common Christian moral values such as love, peace, kindness, compassion, forgiveness.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- To provide children with opportunities for prayer and worship.

4. Entitlement and withdrawal

In accordance with the legal requirement that every child will be provided with a daily act of Collective Worship, every pupil will attend collective worship unless their parents or carers exercise their right to request that their child be withdrawn from daily collective worship on religious grounds.

Parents wishing to exercise this right must make their request in writing to the Executive Head Teacher. Appropriate arrangements for the supervision of pupils will be made in consultation with the Executive Head Teacher, teachers, governors and parents.

All pupils attending Collective Worship are included in Collective worship regardless of their background, gender, beliefs, race or ability.

5. Implementation

5.1 Content and method

The beliefs encompassed in acts of Collective Worship will be those common to all Christians. We will use a variety of materials to meet our aims, including stories from the Bible, secular stories and stories from other cultures. We will use a variety of presentation styles, stimuli and resources.

Every act of Collective Worship will include a time of prayer and/or reflective silence, hymn(s) or worship song(s), and teaching will include learning about Christianity and its beliefs. The Executive Head Teacher, parish clergy and all teachers will lead collective worship regularly.

5.2 Pattern of Worship

Our Collective Worship will last between 10 and 15 minutes, each day. This will take place as a whole school.

5.3 Planning

Planning for each academic year will take place at the beginning of each term and will follow the Diocese of Ely Collective Worship plan as well as our values plan. The plan may change in response to local, national or world events.

5.4 Pupil Involvement

Where possible children will contribute to Collective Worship. Worship will regularly be led by a class and its teacher.

5.5 Special Assemblies/Act of Collective Worship

These will include the celebration of Christian festivals, class assemblies in church and class sharing assemblies.

5.6 Resources

We are aware of the need to continually evaluate and review our resources. Additional resources will be called upon when required and when appropriate we will take advantage of the Diocesan collection of resources.

5.7 Using people from outside to lead worship

Visitors from other denominations, charitable organisations and the wider community will also be invited to lead worship as appropriate. Such visitors will be acquainted with the school's guidance on our worship policy, details of the current theme for worship and any other worship guidelines.