



**QUEST**  
**PRIMARY**

LEARNING CHANGES LIVES

## **Religious Education and Collective Worship Policy**

Approved by  
Local Governing Body  
January 2023

To be reviewed

Spring 2024

## Policy

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

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that many of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

## Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship 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 worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Pupils are encouraged to reflect upon their own experiences of the world. Through Collective Worship we aim to promote the development of a respectful and positive attitude to the experiences, beliefs and values that are present in school and the local community. The celebration of success and worth is an important part of Collective Worship.

In the context of worship in school, the aim is to provide experiences which deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth and the uniqueness of the individual; giving pupils a purpose and meaning to life, awe and wonder of the natural world, reverence and respect and a sense of belonging to the community. The aim is also to make Collective Worship accessible to all pupils and staff whatever their own personal faith and beliefs.

## Aims of Collective Worship

### For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Quest Primary School 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

### For the Pupils:

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

- worship God
- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

## Legal Requirements:

The Education Reform Act of 1988 sets out in law regarding Collective Worship and Circular 1/94 provides further guidance.

The law states that Collective Worship in schools should aim to:

- Provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God
- Consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of the worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered
- Develop a community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

Collective Worship is intended to be appropriate for, and to include all pupils registered who are of statutory school age, regardless of their personal faith. It is provided at a level appropriate to the age, ability and experience of pupils. Collective Worship in school differs from the corporate worship of believers of a particular faith.

Most acts of worship over a term must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character i.e. which reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief. During a term, school may have acts of worship which include elements which are wholly Christian, those that are broadly in the tradition of another faith, for instance when celebrating a festival such as Diwali or Eid, and where some elements are drawn from a number of different faiths. With the school's multi-faith population, it is appropriate to bring ideas and festivals of other faiths to the children's attention through Collective Worship.

## The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Quest Primary School, 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 will 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 Management of Collective Worship

The RE lead plans, monitors and evaluates acts of Collective Worship.

Collective Worship is led by the Head of School, a member of staff or visitor from local faith groups and other organisations.

During Collective Worship there must be a time of quiet reflection or prayer, which is the opportunity for children to reflect inwardly in their own way. This can be introduced in a number of ways e.g. "I would like you to either say a quiet prayer now or to think quietly about what we have heard this morning."

## The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies and RE lessons.

Whole school assemblies for children will be offered on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Assemblies will:

- provide a daily act of collective worship;
- develop a community spirit;
- be broadly Christian in nature;
- promote the school's culture, values and expectations;
- explore important moral and social themes;
- promote care for the planet;
- provide important notices and information;
- celebrate children's successes and achievements both in and out of school;
- share the school curriculum with parents/carers;
- share and celebrate world culture, religions and festivals;
- promote racial harmony and respect for all;
- welcome visitors to lead assemblies and share experiences, values and beliefs

Assemblies may be led by:

- Head of School or Executive Principal
- assistant headteachers;
- teachers;
- classes of children;
- identified groups of children;
- invited visitors, e.g. local clergy or other religious leaders, charity workers, local Head teacher.

Elements of these assemblies will be broadly of a Christian nature and include:

- religious and moral themes;
- praise/moral songs;
- prayers/quiet reflective times.

A weekly Parent Assembly will be offered where children and their families can share information, successes and celebrations together e.g. parents are invited to celebration assemblies on Fridays, Music assemblies etc

### Right of Withdrawal

Parents/carers will be offered the right to withdraw their children from the act of collective worship and their wishes will be respected.

Parents/carers are invited to talk to the Head of School if they require further information about the daily act of collective worship and/or wish to consider withdrawing their child.

Parents/carers are asked to inform the school in writing if they wish to withdraw their child from the act of collective worship (or parts thereof), outlining exactly what they wish their children to be withdrawn from.

Staff have a freedom under the 1944 Education Reform Act not to have to lead or attend collective worship. The school will respect this right, but will expect staff to attend parts of an assembly when collective worship is not taking place, e.g. the giving of notices, celebrating pupil achievements, class assemblies