

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Name of School: Winthorpe Primary School
Date of Policy: March 2023
Responsibility of: Governors
Review Date: March 2026



Introduction

Winthorpe Primary School is a maintained school. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. All pupils attend Collective Worship in school although we respect that some pupils may be withdrawn by their parents for religious or cultural reasons.

The Headteacher is responsible, under the school standards and framework act of 1988, for ensuring that a daily act of collective worship takes place. Consultation is also made in this matter with the governing body. The School recognises that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims and purpose

It is our aim at Winthorpe Primary School that worship should:

- Reflect values that are of a broadly Christian nature.
- Promote a sense of community within the school and a sense of belonging and pride within the local community;
- Promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development;
- Explore the meaning of British values and use these to underpin the school's aims and standards.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements of pupils and staff within the school.
- Be aware of local, national and international events and understand their significance and impact.
- Allow children to reflect on issues and beliefs that may or may not directly affect them.
- Explore different religions and cultures, developing tolerance, love and respect.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to interact with other year groups, staff and, on occasions, the wider community.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or class based gatherings.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that we will explore key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Winthorpe Primary School take into account the student's ages and family backgrounds. They also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate by holding weekly celebration 'Gold Book' assemblies, during which children can share their work, achievements and successes to others. These assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate them together.

Rights of Withdrawal

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship.

At Winthorpe Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

As required, the school will provide suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Collective Worship. No additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship, but the Headteacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Collective Worship.

Organisation

Monday – Whole School Collective Worship – Singing

Tuesday – Whole School Collective Worship – Big Questions

Wednesday – Whole School Collective Worship – School and British Values

Thursday – Whole School Collective Worship – World Events

Friday – Whole School Celebration Assembly – Gold Book Assembly

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective Worship themes are planned each week following the structure above.

Big questions: Philosophical questions for the children to form their own answers

School and British Values: Understanding and demonstrating School and British Values

World Events: Important global dates, including major religious festivals

Planning allows all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This means that by the end of the term the children will have had the opportunity to reflect on one or more theme from various viewpoints.