



Wantage
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Collective Worship Policy Whole School and EYFS

This policy is available to parents and prospective parents on the school's website and by request from the School Office. If you require a copy of this document in large print or audio format, please contact the School Office.

Policy review information

Policy	WPA Collective Worship Policy
Review schedule	Every 3 years
Statutory Policy	No
Policy owner	Principal
Lead Reviewer	Principal
Approver and date of last approval	Principal, 24/03/2023
Key review dates	Changes made
<i>Next review: 24/03/2026</i>	
24/03/2023	PTA updated to FoWPA
23/04/2020	Amended from DPA version

Policy Statement

Families who send their children to this school range from practising Christians, those from other faiths to some who are from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we must consider the background that our children come from and it is, therefore, not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. Our acts of worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' for the majority of the time. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

This policy is linked to our Equality policy and our Curriculum Policy. It follows DfE statutory guidance.

Aims

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community;
- grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every-day situations and beliefs;
- celebrate special occasions together;
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them;
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus;
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not;
- learn to be tolerant, kind and respect others in essence 'to treat people as you wish people to treat you'.

Responsibilities

The Principal is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Multi-Academy Trust. The Principal will usually lead the act of worship within whole school assemblies and class teachers will lead the daily act of worship that falls between these.

What is collective worship?

In a school setting this means a time for celebrating examples of the highest achievements of human spirit and spiritual reflection. In this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive. It is something that is unique and distinctive and different from but complementary to 'assembly'.

What is worship of a broadly Christian character?

The majority of acts of worship must be of a 'broadly Christian character', and those that are must reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominational. Paragraphs 60-63 of the DfE Circular 1/94 asks schools to define this as according a special status to Jesus Christ. It is, therefore, appropriate in this school to tell stories of the life of Jesus, but inappropriate for all children to be required to address Him in prayer. Many of the characteristics of Christianity are shared by all the faiths so we concentrate on these.

When does collective worship take place?

All our pupils take part in a collective act of worship each day. This may form part of our whole school Monday and Friday Assembly time and our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assemblies. On non-assembly days the class teacher will lead the collective worship which takes place after our lunchtime registration. The activity is 'appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils'.

Who attends collective our worship?

All our children attend each daily act of worship. Parents of our pupils have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school we will comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Principal. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

What will the collective worship be like?

We plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods. These may include:

- Secular and non-secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama pieces to convey a thought, message or story
- Prayer/reflection
- Songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials

What song/music do we include?

Song/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of music from which to draw, taken from a variety of cultures and types. Likewise with the songs we sing. We are careful with our songs to recognise that there might be some words which some of our children would find offensive to sing. We have changed the words of some songs to make them more inclusive. We select our songs/music carefully to match the theme.

Every week we have a singing practice in phase groups. During this we take time to consider carefully the words of the songs.

How do we pray?

We feel that prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils will not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introductions to our prayers which distances children, but gives them the opportunity to participate if they so desire eg 'And now in a moment of stillness, listen to the words of a well-known Christian/ Hindu/ Muslim prayer/poem/reading...' In this way we are able to use prayers from many different traditions.

It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish. The majority of our prayers follow the golden rule that most world religions have at their core – to treat people as you would wish people to treat you. (Appendix 1)

Monitoring and evaluation

The SLT and Principal will monitor the effectiveness of this policy through:

- staff meetings;
- SLT meetings;
- Half termly Director of Education of MAT half termly visits;
- feedback from parents via the Local Advisory Board, PTA (FoWPA) and parent surveys.

Appendix 1 Versions of The Golden Rule

Buddhism

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

Udana-Varga 5,1

Christianity

All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

Matthew 7:1

Confucianism

Do not do to others what you would not like yourself. Then there will be no resentment against you, either in the family or in the state.

Analects 12:2

Hinduism

This is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you.

Mahabharata 5,1517

Islam

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

Sunnah

Judaism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary.

Talmud, Shabbat 31d

Sikhism

As thou deemest thyself, so deem others

Guru Granth Sahib

Taoism

Regard your neighbour's gain as your gain, and your neighbour's loss as your own loss.

Tai Shang Kan Yin P'ien

Zoroastrianism

That nature alone is good which refrains from doing another whatsoever is not good for itself.

Dadisten-I-dinik, 94,5