

Watlington Community Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

This policy has been developed to fulfil national statutory requirements, to raise awareness and understanding among pupils of the spiritual, moral and cultural aspects of modern British Life. Watlington Community Primary School believes that Collective Worship should be a reflection of the important values in life.

The legal Requirements for Collective Worship

The Education Act 1996 requires:

- All pupils must take part in an act of collective worship every day at any time during that day.
- Collective Worship may be as a whole school or in different age groups e.g. Key Stage or Classes
- The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met.
- Collective Worship must take part on the school premises
- Collective Worship shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character
- Each member of staff, including the Headteacher, has the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship.
- It remains the Headteacher's responsibility to lead Collective Worship
- All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially.

Aim of Collective Worship

The Law requires all schools to provide a daily act of Collective Worship. At Watlington Community Primary School we acknowledge that our school community is not a "worshipping community" in the same sense as a local church, but we aim to give children the opportunity to understand and experience some of the features of worship in Christian Community. The Law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of Collective Worship. We do this through either spoken prayers or time for quiet reflection.

Approach of Collective Worship

At Watlington Community Primary School we believe that a core set of values is important to life as a Christian and for other Faiths. As a result, the school follows the "Values for Life" programme. Each half term the school focuses on a Value and this is then explored in depth. This is explored through many of the following methods:

- Bible stories
- Readings
- Reading and stories from main world religions
- Sharing important national and international news, events etc.
- Sharing achievement and celebrating success
- Singing

- Poetry
- Drama
- Art
- Artefacts
- Video Clips
- Prayers
- Question and Answer sessions
- Reflection

Organisation of Collective Worship

The Headteacher is responsible for compiling a rota for qualified staff to take Collective Worship. This is accompanied by a member of the support staff.

The usual pattern of Collective worship is as follows:

Monday – Thursday	10.15-10.30
Friday	14.40-15.10

Other agencies may occasionally lead the Collective Worship. Occasionally Acts of Worship are held in the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Watlington e.g. at Christmas.

Resources for Collective Worship

Resources are held in the Headteacher’s office.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the school brochure and asked to contact the Headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons should be given, but discussion with school is recommended. Staff also have the right of withdrawal, upon discussion with the Headteacher.

Ofsted

Collective Worship is inspected as part of the normal inspection process.

Signed by
Chair of Governors

on

Date for Review