



## Collective Worship Policy

<b>Responsible Committee</b>	<b>Full Governors</b>
<b>Date reviewed</b>	<b>January 2026</b>
<b>Next Review date</b>	<b>January 2027</b>

## **BACKGROUND TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT OUR SCHOOL**

At Chambersbury Primary, we understand the importance of collective worship in terms of its educational, inclusive and spiritual nature and this can play an important part in the lives of our young children. We ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child are embedded into all collective worship that takes place in our school, explicitly recognising this spiritual element of a holistic child's development, along with social and moral well-being, cultural development and physical and mental health. Our collective worship challenges but does not seek to convert or indoctrinate. It affirms diversity and the needs to respect integrity of pupils and teachers whatever their faith or non-backgrounds.

## **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The law requires that all pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship. Taken over a term, the majority of such acts should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. Specifically, the law requires that

- ✚ All pupils should take part in an act of collective worship each school day
- ✚ There may be a single act of collective worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups
- ✚ In community schools without a religious character, the Head Teacher, after consultation with the Governing Body, is responsible for the arrangements for collective worship
- ✚ Acts of collective worship shall take place on the school premises
- ✚ Acts of collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils
- ✚ Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all acts of collective worship. The parent does not have to give a reason for this request. The school retains responsibility for the pupil's health and safety.
- ✚ All Teachers (including Head Teachers) retain the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship.

Families who send their children to Chambersbury Primary school are in the main 'nominally' Christian. In addition, there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to 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. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

## **AIMS**

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and

intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

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

- ✚ Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different values and faiths
- ✚ Provide opportunities for prayers and promote reflection upon readings from holy texts or other writing
- ✚ Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- ✚ Provide opportunities for pupils to consider life's big questions and their responses
- ✚ 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 everyday situations and beliefs
- ✚ Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- ✚ Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- ✚ Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- ✚ Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus

We seek to lead pupils to the point where they can appreciate and if they wish, develop faith.

## **WHAT IS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Worship from within a faith tradition has a very specific definition. A school community is not a worshipping community and the law recognises this by requiring "collective" not "corporate" worship. Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worth-ship. This might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to God and/or people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of

belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

## **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.

If we are to be inclusive in our worship in this school, taking the family backgrounds of the children into consideration, then, when according a special status to Jesus Christ, all pupils, whatever their beliefs, need to be respected. 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. It is important to concentrate on these as well as those specific to Christianity.

## **OBJECTIVES**

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- ✚ Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- ✚ Celebrate special occasions together
- ✚ Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world
- ✚ Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- ✚ Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- ✚ Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn....;
- ✚ Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people
- ✚ Reflect and explore British Values and how these relate to the world we live in.

## **VISITORS**

We enjoy the fresh approach which visitors can bring to our school worship and we have good links with those who visit us regularly to lead worship.

## **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

At Chambersbury Primary, we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- ✚ Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- ✚ The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- ✚ Positive response to shared experience
- ✚ An atmosphere which matches the theme
- ✚ A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- ✚ A sense of occasion
- ✚ Good order
- ✚ Staff affirmation
- ✚ A sense of challenge
- ✚ A place in the overall plan of the school
- ✚ Enrichment of pupil's experience

**This policy should be read alongside Collective Worship Guidance.**

<https://thegrid.org.uk/assets/collective-worship-guidance-sacre.pdf>