



Collective Worship (inc RE) Policy

Review of Policy	Autumn 2023
Members of staff responsible	RE Lead
Policy History	Ratified
People involved	RE Lead LGB
Signed by Chair of LGB	Christine Robertson
Date	28/09/23
Date for Review	Autumn 2028

Introduction

At Wyvern we believe that Collective Worship forms an important part in the life of our school not least because it is the one time in which we can all come together regularly in a joint activity. It is an opportunity for us to promote the values and ethos of the school and for pupils to experience and enjoy being part of a large community.

Aims of Collective Worship

To contribute to the spiritual development of all our pupils through

- Providing opportunities for students to experience stillness, quiet and reflection
- Inspiring awe and wonder, and appreciation of the natural world
- Providing experience of worship and prayer and simple bible stories
- Developing a concern for the needs of others and recognition of their own vulnerability and that of others.
- Providing the opportunity for students to praise God through song

To contribute to the social development of all our pupils by

- Encouraging them to sit and listen.
- Encouraging students to become used to the different social rules of different settings/situations.
- Developing confidence through active involvement.
- Enhancing self-esteem by sharing in and celebrating personal achievements.
- Providing an opportunity for pupils to experience being part of a large group and to feel a sense of community.
- Enabling pupils to get to know other staff and pupils in school.
- Encouraging students to appreciate the contributions of others.
- Providing a platform to launch half-termly SEAL projects.
- Helping to keep students abreast of current news items and to think how situations affect others.

To contribute to the cultural development of pupils by

- Celebrating festivals and special events in other faiths and cultures.
- Experiencing Christian worship and celebrations of Christian festivals.

To contribute to the moral development of pupils by

- Reinforcing understanding of right and wrong.
- Reinforcing values such as truth, honesty and consideration for others.

Implementation

Collective worship takes place four times a week for fifteen to twenty minutes. The whole school meets once a week on Fridays where Collective worship focuses on the celebration of pupils' achievements through the giving out of WOW certificates. It also includes the celebration of birthdays, a hymn or song and the lighting of the candle. Pupils say the school prayer together.

There are three other assemblies during the week, each with a different focus. Pupils attend whichever assembly is most suitable for them or more than one if this is appropriate. These are as follows:

- **Themed Assembly** – suitable for older and more able pupils. This may include a story, drama, information relating to the theme, one or two hymns or songs and a prayer or thought for the day. Themes for this Assembly reflect appropriate religious festivals, key events or current news topics.
- **Sensory Assembly** - suitable for younger pupils and pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties. The focus for this Assembly is a sensory story, usually relating to the termly topic.

Pupils engage with the story through exploring the resources with their senses. The story is repeated over several weeks which gives pupils the opportunity to anticipate what comes next.

- **Structured Assembly** – suitable for pupils on the autistic spectrum. A quiet Assembly, using Attention Autism activities.
- **Sign and Sing Assembly** – suitable for younger pupils and pupils who enjoy music and singing. A time for pupils to come together to sing and to learn new signs.

In addition to the regular Assemblies, there are also whole school Assemblies to celebrate the Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter, and the major festivals in other faiths.

The Head Teacher leads the whole school Friday Assembly. All teaching staff are on a rota for leading the other Assemblies. The Assemblies to celebrate festivals are led by the teacher responsible for R.E.

Legal Requirements

We take into account the following legal requirements for collective worship

- Worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character – Religious festivals will therefore be addressed and more generic topics such as Martin Luther King Day or Mothering Sunday will have a Christian ethos. Major festivals from each of the other 5 main religions will be addressed at appropriate times during the year.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship should they so wish. If parents do not wish their child to be taught the agreed syllabus or take part in short acts of collective worship they should inform us in writing. Their child can then be excused and suitable alternative arrangements made.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship – however, the school expects that this would only happen following parental discussion with the Head Teacher and written confirmation of withdrawal.
- 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 gather together as a school on a daily basis would be difficult but there are two organised acts of collective worship per week in addition to individual class acts of worship.
- Responsibility for ensuring that collective worship is conducted rests with the Trustees, in consultation with the Head Teacher.