

**Scargill Church of England Primary School**

Collective Worship Policy

‘Let all that you do, be done in love’

1 Corinthians 16:14

*This is our school*

*Let love dwell here*

*Love of learning*

*Love of our community*

*Love of all people*

*Love of God*

*And love of life itself*

Living Our Values Everyday

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date policy last reviewed: | | November 2024 | | |  |
|  | | | | | |
| Signed by: | | | | | |
|  | Headteacher | | Date: |  | |
|  | Chair of governors | | Date: |  | |

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**Statement of intent**

At Scargill Primary School, Collective worship is a central and important part of school life for all members of the school community. We recognise our statutory duty to provide daily collective worship for all our pupils and will provide 20 minutes of worship a day to enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

The act of daily collective worship will be of a broadly Christian character; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence. Our intention is that worship offers a chance to think and reflect about how we can take what we learn in worship, into our lives in school and beyond.

This policy outlines how the school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

## Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

* The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
* The Education Reform Act 1988
* The Education Act 1993
* DfE (1994) ‘Religious Education and Collective Worship’
* DfE (2010) Religious education in English schools: Non‑statutory guidance
* DfE (2012) ‘Religious education (RE) and collective worship in academies and free schools’
* DfE (1994) Religious education and collective worship (Circular 1/94)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

* RE Policy
* Guest Speaker Policy
* Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Policy
* Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education Policy

## Definition of collective worship

'Worship' is not defined in the legislation; therefore, for the purpose of this policy, **“collective worship”** reflects an act which is special or separate from ordinary school activities. It is a time when individuals come together, and reverence or veneration is paid to a divine being or power.

To take part in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

## Aims of collective worship

Collective worship aims to:

* Provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God.
* Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
* Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
* Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
* Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual’s life stance, whether religious or not.
* Promote a common ethos and shared values.
* Reinforce positive attitudes.
* Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics, e.g. morality.
* Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
* Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.

## Organisation, planning and Content

Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with the [Right to withdraw section](#_Right_to_withdraw) of this policy.

Worship will broadly be of a Christian character and usually last for 20 minutes each day

The usual schedule of worship is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **Whom** | *Whole school* | *All classes* | *Whole school* | *Key stage groups* | *Whole school* |
| **Where** | *Old Hall* | *In class* | *New Hall* | *Both halls* | *New Hall* |
| **Content** | *Values based worship based on Roots and fruits* | *Picture News (Collective Worship)* | *Praise worship* | *World Worship* | *Celebration Worship* |

Included in these Acts of Worship are:

* Opportunities for reflection
* Singing
* Prayers
* Story-telling, traditional and Bible based
* Drama and mime
* Opportunities for the children to make personal contributions
* Visiting speakers

Worship is planned and organised by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator each half term. This is based on the Christian values but also include a recognition of the Church’s year and make space for other national events. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning and leading and monitoring of Collective Worship. Our Collective worship committee have representatives from across the school. They help to plan and deliver worship each week. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including ‘gathering’, ‘engaging’, ‘responding’ and ‘sending.’ As a school community, we attend St Wilfred’s Church for services on St Wilfred’s day, Christmas Easter and at the end of year. Staff and children attend these services and parents are also invited to attend. Children take an active role in these services. Collective Worship is seen as a time when we foster a sense of belonging to the school, to the wider community of West Hallam and to the society and world in which we live.

Individual worship make occur in our prayer spaces around school.

Members of staff are expected to attend collective worship, in order to emphasise the important role that worship plays in school life.

* Children will take part in collective worship every day.
* Children will also be given the opportunity to take a lead.
* Themes used will sometimes relate to the cycle of the seasons, the wonders of the world and the celebration of religious festivals.
* The themes will be put forward in a variety of ways, eg, through story, prose, poetry, drama, art, music, discussion.
* There will be reference made to faiths other than Christianity.
* The collective worship will include the singing of hymns and songs and opportunities are given, both to join in with and to listen to prayers.
* Children will also say a prayer before lunch and at the end of each school day.

Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school’s Guest Speaker Policy during their visit.

## Implementation

The school will promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils’ needs, ages and interests by:

* Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
* Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
* Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama, and guest speakers to engage pupils’ interest.
* Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals and shared or written prayers.

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.

Inspection of collective worship will be arranged with the following religious authority:

* The National Society (During SIAMS)

## Right to withdraw

Parents will have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and will not be required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the Executive Headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

* The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
* The practical implications of their withdrawal.
* Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Alternative arrangements will be put in place for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Alternative arrangements may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

* The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
* Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

The alternative arrangements will be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

## Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an **annual** basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing board.

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is **November 2024**.