CHERRY ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL
COLLECTIVE ACTS OF WORSHIP POLICY

Date of Policy: September 2026
Member of Staff Responsible: Madia Liaqat
Review Date: September 2028
Consultation: This policy was developed with staff following local and national curriculum guidance.

To be read in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning Policy, Assessment Policy, SEND Policy, Equality Policy, Religious Education Policy and SMSC Policy.

Ethos Statement:

It is the aim of the Governing Body of Cherry Orchard Primary School to support the implementation of policies and procedures that support the vision of:

"We care, we learn, we succeed."

As a Rights Respecting School, we actively promote the rights of the child.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together in order to reflect on common concern, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for all pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The daily act of worship provides a focus and unifying dimension to the whole life of Cherry Orchard Primary School. This statement describes the nature and management of the Collective Act of Worship at the school.

Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ' wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practicing members of other faiths, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:
Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Cherry Orchard Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievements and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contribute to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities which…

- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop an understanding of the nature and language of prayer e.g. prayer and reflection
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the directions of their lives
- reinforce positive attitude
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and the worries of the world
- reflect on the UN Rights of the Child

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Cherry Orchard Primary School, Collective Worship will at all times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of the pupils by reflecting on the work done in the classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of the subject matter from a different perspective. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

Role of the subject leader:

- plan weekly themes/ topics for assembly and collective worship
- support and advise colleagues on issues related to the subject
- provide efficient resource management for the subject

Leading a collective worship session

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship- assembly and collective worship.

Planning Acts of Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheet list of themes, special occasions and events will be drawn, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Cherry Orchard Primary School. People from faiths and non-religious

groups within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these traditions.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources may also be used. Collective Worship Leaders will choose the style/method and resources, which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and the process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

Every teacher will have a class Collective Worship book to record the weekly collective worship in their class. If announcements are to be made at the same time as an act of worship, then they will be of positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a sensitive and inclusive manner so as to ensure that all children will feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from an act at or acts of Collective Worship.

Those wishing to make such request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher:
a) Any particular concerns they may have
b) Practical arrangement for withdrawal.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.