

	SLINGSBY SCHOOL Collective Worship Policy	Date for Review Jan 2023
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1 Introduction

1.1 In our school we endeavour to promote a child’s spiritual moral and social development as well as their formal education. Through our daily act of collective worship, we introduce children to the act of prayer and the concept of spirituality. Worship is normally carried out during school assemblies which happen most afternoons either in the classroom, the school hall or online in times of national lockdown/home learning. When possible, an assembly is held once a week in the local church or chapel and led by the local Worship Group where both pupils and staff attend. Worship takes place in classrooms when school assemblies are not possible. We recognise that not all assemblies contain an act of worship.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are to:

- provide an opportunity for children to worship the God in which they believe;
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- encourage participation and response;
- develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to their God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, we often base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each afternoon assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly, a class assembly, or an online assembly if children are home learning.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate

atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

- 3.3 Assemblies are normally conducted by a class teacher, but are also led by the head teacher, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.
- 3.4 We take many of the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum or focus on our Slingsby School values for life of Respect, Honesty, Resilience, Expectations and Caring for Others. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place. We recognise festivals from other faiths.

4 Celebration Assemblies

- 4.1 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. As well as promoting our school Values for Life which are Respect, Honesty, Resilience, Expectations and Caring for Others. We believe we are a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- 4.2 Each week, in normal circumstances, there is a particular assembly that parents and carers are invited to attend. During a national lockdown, the assemblies are recorded and accessible via the school website. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- 4.3 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

5 Right of withdrawal

- 5.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 5.2 The head teacher keeps a record of any children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

6 Monitoring and review

- 6.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role the governing body, who are also responsible for the school policy for religious education. The governors concerned liaise with the head teacher before reporting back to the governors.
- 6.2 This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if necessary.