



## William Fletcher Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy

*William Fletcher School is a Rights respecting School, this policy reflects Articles 12 (freedom of expression), 13 (freedom of expression) and 14 (freedom of thought).*

#### **Introduction**

Collective worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community, this can be as the whole school, key stage groups, class groups or with our wider community.

Collective worship contributes to the promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a good time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

#### **Aims**

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- support the social and emotional development of our pupils
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise, to experience stillness and quiet.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

#### **Statutory Requirements**

Collective worship at William Fletcher complies with legal requirements as set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The law states that "Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character which means that it reflects

the broad traditions of a Christian belief.”

It is, however, fundamental that collective worship should be flexible enough to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all children in the school. Therefore ‘an act of worship which is “broadly Christian” need not contain Christian material only” (DFE 34)

Many beliefs that are broadly Christian are inclusive to other major world faiths e.g. God, peace, justice, love, good, evil, greed, poverty, charity, tolerance, co-operation, care for the environment, war and prejudice. This wide-ranging list clearly demonstrates the range which is available to the person leading collective worship. For this reason, we have adopted exploring key values at William Fletcher. Each month a new value is introduced into our collective worship to provide opportunities for pupils to reflect on these values.

### **Collective Worship and Assembly**

Collective worship and assembly are not the same thing, but it is usual for collective worship to take place during an assembly, either as a small part or its entirety. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon their life experiences.

Collective worship at our school endeavours to encourage the development of every child’s intellectual and spiritual capacities. It is a time when the individual child or adult can be celebrated for his or her social and academic achievements and a time to foster the positive values held at school, in the local community and the wider world.

An assembly is a gathering of all or part of the school and is concerned with administrative matters and other announcements about school life. It is important that collective worship is seen to be distinct from those parts of the assembly that are solely concerned with administration.

At our school every assembly incorporates an act of worship which aims to contribute to the education (in its broadest sense) of every child. There needs to be a sense of occasion during which we can all express feelings of respect and worth for ourselves and for others.

A broad and flexible approach is adopted for collective worship as with any other activity in school.

### **Implementation**

At William Fletcher a wide range of people are encouraged to lead collective worship. The Headteacher co-ordinates collective worship and all teachers currently take an active role in leading worship.

Faith Community representatives are also invited to take an active part in leading

collective worship.

A new Value is introduced by the headteacher at the beginning of each month during a Monday assembly. The school then explores this value throughout the remainder of the month during whole school, key stage assemblies and class circle times and discussions. The process of worship takes place through a variety of media – songs, stories, drama, poetry, music etc. The collective worship times are set out below.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Person Leading</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>
Monday	Head/Visitor/Vicar	Whole School 8.50am
Tuesday	Class Teachers	KS1hall 8.50am KS2 hall 10.00am
Wednesday	Class teachers	Classroom
Thursday	Class Teachers	Classroom
Friday	Head/Celebration of Work	Whole school 8.50am

### **Equal Opportunities**

The school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual , whatever their gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The staff and governors are committed to ensuring every child benefits from collective worship. Every attempt is made to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

### **Withdrawal of Pupils from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to remove their child from collective worship without explanation. However, as the main aim of collective worship at William Fletcher is for it to be meaningful and relevant for all pupils and staff, it is hoped that few parents will feel that they have to remove their child as this breaks down the unity of the school. The school has good communication with parents and we would hope to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding as to the nature of our collective worship. Should a child be withdrawn then appropriate arrangements will be made for supervision.

## Conclusion

Collective worship at William Fletcher complies with all recent requirements and wherever possible acts upon advice from relevant educational bodies. We offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs and to consider the importance of quiet reflection and prayer. Collective worship at William Fletcher enables pupils to consider the relevance of ideas and values in their own lives and to think about the needs and feelings of others in our school, in the local community and further afield.

Collective worship provides a time to celebrate achievement and positive behaviour and offers the opportunity to interpret and put into practice the values of our school.

Policy Name	Collective Worship Policy
Frequency of review	3 years
Reviewed on	April 2022
Reviewed by	Teaching team
Next review date	April 2025