



Governor Committee Responsible:	FGB	Staff Lead:	Headteacher Amy Pugh
Status	Statutory or Non-statutory	Review Cycle	Annual / Biennial / Tri-annual
Ratified by	Chair of Governors Tracey Johnson	Ratification date	December 24
Next Review Date	December 26	To be read in conjunction with	• RE Policy • SMSC Policy

Philosophical Statement

At Berry Hill Primary School, we believe that Collective Worship plays a vital role in the development of children, supporting their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth. We are committed to providing an inclusive, reflective and respectful environment where children can explore and express a variety of beliefs and values, both religious and non-religious. Our collective worship sessions encourage children to become more aware of themselves, others, and the world around them, while promoting the principles of tolerance, respect and community.

Background to Collective Worship at Berry Hill Primary School

All children participate in a daily Assembly/Collective Worship. In accordance with the law, these acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" for the majority of the time. They should also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes, and family backgrounds of the pupils."

We respect the diversity of our community, which includes a broad range of religious and cultural backgrounds. We believe in fostering tolerance and understanding of different faiths, as well as none, while helping children explore shared values. We do not preach or seek to convert; rather, we encourage reflection and growth through a respectful, inclusive approach.

The Headteacher is responsible for organising the Assembly/Collective Worship timetable. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from these sessions and should contact the Headteacher to discuss this. Similarly, staff members may withdraw from collective worship in consultation with the Headteacher.

Some Definitions

- **Collective Worship:** Collective worship draws upon a variety of media such as literature, music, art, drama and other sources to inspire and reflect. It aims to be inclusive, accommodating children of all faiths or none.
- **Worship of a Broadly Christian Character:** The law requires that the majority of acts of worship must be broadly Christian. These acts should reflect core Christian beliefs, without being denominational. While we maintain strong links with the local church and reflect Christian values, we also encourage children to learn about the six major world religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Hinduism. We highlight the shared values that unite these faiths, promoting understanding and respect for different belief systems.

Values and Aims

We believe that collective worship supports the ethos of our school, reflecting our commitment to the holistic development of the child. Our worship sessions provide a time for children to reflect, grow in understanding, and express their thoughts and feelings in a safe, respectful environment.

Through collective worship, we aim to:

- Help children become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and members of the wider community.
- Encourage empathy by exploring the feelings of others in diverse situations and beliefs.
- Deepen children's sense of wonder and appreciation for the world around them.
- Build confidence in presenting and expressing their ideas in front of peers.
- Provide opportunities for children to respond freely to spiritual or religious stimuli.
- Recognise and affirm the diversity of life stances within our school community.

Collective worship plays a key role in nurturing a sense of belonging within the school, as it reflects the values that underpin our curriculum and daily interactions. We believe that it is through worship that children gain an understanding of their place within both the school and the broader world.

Objectives

The objectives of collective worship at our school are to:

- Encourage a sense of community, where pupils feel valued and part of the whole school.
- Celebrate significant occasions and achievements, both within the school and the wider community.
- Reflect on important issues and current events affecting the school, local, and global communities.
- Offer opportunities for children to explore values, attitudes, and standards from both religious and societal perspectives.
- Provide a space for personal reflection on the different dimensions of human life, including joy, sorrow, wonder, and tragedy.
- Allow children to engage with and appreciate spiritual expressions in diverse forms, including creative and artistic representations, religious practices, and scientific discoveries.

Planning and Logistics

Collective worship is carefully planned and integrated with assembly times to ensure it takes place within an educational framework. The Headteacher is responsible for scheduling and coordinating the worship timetable, ensuring that there is a balance of content and approach. Teachers and children are actively involved in planning and delivering worship sessions, fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

To ensure a quality worship experience, we focus on creating a suitable atmosphere that is reflective and thoughtful. We strive to maintain a balance in content and methodology, providing opportunities for quiet personal reflection, group discussion, and creative expression.

Methods and Content

We draw on a variety of methods and materials to keep our worship sessions engaging and meaningful. These may include:

- Pupil contributions (readings, songs, prayers, artwork)
- Sacred and secular stories or readings that inspire reflection
- Dance, drama, and other creative expressions
- Prayer, reflection, meditation, hymns, and music

- Artefacts and natural materials to stimulate thought
- Visual aids and focal points to enhance reflection
- Dialogue and creative silence to encourage thoughtful participation
- Visitors from various faiths and backgrounds to share their perspectives

These elements combine to create a worship experience that is dynamic, inclusive, and enriching for all participants.

Legal Requirements and Compliance

In line with statutory regulations, collective worship is:

- Mainly of a broadly Christian character as required by law, while remaining inclusive and respectful of other religions and beliefs.
- Age-appropriate for all children, taking into account their developmental stages and family backgrounds.
- Voluntary in terms of staff and parental participation, with a right to withdraw children from collective worship upon request.

We review and adjust our approach to collective worship to ensure compliance with legal requirements, and to best meet the needs of our diverse school community.

Collective worship at Berry Hill Primary School is a vital part of our ethos, offering children opportunities to explore their spiritual and moral development in a safe, reflective environment. We are committed to providing a space where all children, regardless of their religious or non-religious background, can participate, learn, and grow in understanding, empathy, and respect for others.