



<b>C37: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP</b>	
<b>Last reviewed:</b> January 2011	<b>Next Review:</b> January 2013
<b>Approved by Governors C&amp;P</b>	<b>26 January 2011</b>

## **1 Rationale and Statutory Duty of School**

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents and sixth form pupils who request withdrawal from attendance at religious worship). This is usually provided within a daily assembly. The Headteacher is responsible, under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006), for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. It is acceptable for schools to split the collective worship sessions over the school year to be 51% Christian and 49% other faiths or interests. Most schools should be able to include all pupils in their act of collective worship. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the Headteacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted. Collective worship can take place at any time in the school day and the whole school does not need to get together at the same time. Collective worship can be organised into Form or Year groups or whatever is appropriate for the school.

## **2 Aims**

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- develop a sense of being part of the wider community and celebrate difference and diversity
- celebrate achievements and special occasions related to individuals, the school and the wider community
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- consider spiritual, cultural and moral issues
- respond to the ‘theme of the week’

## **3 Implementation**

Collective worship, whether in assembly or tutor time, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils



## **4 Organisation**

The timing and organisation of daily collective worship can be flexible and involve different groups of students including Tutor or Year groups, Key Stages or Houses and led by Form Tutors, House Achievement Leaders, or a member of the Leadership Team. Each week there will be a 'Theme of the Week' which will be reflected in assemblies and Form Periods throughout the week.

## **5 Involvement of Teachers**

Teachers cannot be required to lead or attend collective worship except where the law provides otherwise.

## **6 Parental Partnership and the Right to Withdraw**

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. A school remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from collective worship, unless the child is taking part in collective worship elsewhere. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. In order to avoid misunderstanding, the Headteacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- the religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught
- the practical implications of withdrawal
- the circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents wishes
- if a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much

If a sixth-form pupil requests that s/he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship, the pupil shall be so excused. A sixth-form pupil means any pupil who –

- a) has ceased to be of compulsory school age, and
- b) is receiving education suitable to the requirements of pupils over compulsory school age

## **7 Monitoring and Review**

The school staff and governors will review this policy and assess its implementation and effectiveness on a two-year cycle.