



COLLECTIVE ACTS OF WORSHIP

ABSTRACT

This policy states how collective acts of worship are carried out at Grange. In putting together this policy, the school pays due regard to the statutory requirements, the Education Act and the guidance offered by the LA through SACRE the school's behavior policy.

APPROVED	Chair / Headteacher
POLICY DATE	September 2023
REVIEW	September 2025



Collective Acts of Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Grange Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education 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 practising members of other faiths, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

The Collective Worship Policy of Grange Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Definition of Collective Worship

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

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Grange Primary School and it is our aim we:

- ☐ share common aims and values
- ☐ celebrate achievement 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* to:

- ☐ worship God
- ☐ reflect on that which is considered worthy
- ☐ consider spiritual and moral issues
- ☐ explore their own beliefs
- ☐ develop their own spirituality
- ☐ reflect on the direction of their lives
- ☐ reinforce positive attitudes
- ☐ participate and respond
- ☐ reflect on what it means to be human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Grange, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work completed in class.

Additionally, it will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy, which informs our practice. 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.

The Management of Collective Worship

The RE coordinator (Mrs Collins) will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies, 'themed word of the half term' class based weekly sessions and RE lessons.

At Grange, we follow a Collective worship weekly timetable, following the 'Collective worship SACRE guidelines for schools in Newham' 2015.

"Collective worship and assembly Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, although they may take place as part of the same gathering. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon life experiences and ultimate questions and, if appropriate, focus on God. It should allow the pupils to be able to make a spiritual response...Schools often gather for achievement assemblies, singing assemblies and curriculum assemblies. These can be made into an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity for reflection or prayer at the end of these times. Without it they stay as an assembly."

Collective Acts of Worship will be organised as follows:

Monday- Reception/Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 music assemblies (Songs linking to the themed word for the half term)

Wednesday and Friday- Whole school assembly covering a range of themes, incorporating a reflection time/prayer at the end.

Tuesday and Thursday- Themed word of the half term session in class, following the 'plug in, switch on, light up' model below.

Reflection at the end of PSHE/RE lessons, incorporating the learning and how it relates to Bible parables and children's own faiths and beliefs.

A candle is lit to focus the children, signalling that the CAW is taking place.



PLUG IN – this is about awakening the children

Using a stimulus e.g. music, picture, quotation, candle, flowers. We need to give the children time to prepare. A well chosen piece of music can help create an atmosphere for worship and reflection.



SWITCH ON – this is about engaging the children

It will usually focus on a particular story, article, drama or message. Using different approaches and involving different people will provide variety in worship. The material should be presented in an appealing way and be appropriate to the age group. Visual aids and artefacts can provide useful illustrations of key points and help the children to remember the message.



LIGHT UP – this is about allowing the children to respond.

It must include an opportunity for the pupils to reflect and if appropriate for them, to think about God. It may be a prayer, poem or guided reflection. This part must take place for it to be collective worship. Silence can allow time for individual thought and reflection, or prayer as appropriate.

This format is based on one produced by Blackburn Diocese.

Note: It is common for schools to combine an assembly and collective worship. In this case, the 'Plug in' and 'Switch on' parts may be regarded as part of the assembly. The act of collective worship is the 'Light up' aspect.

Leadership

Every member of the teaching staff, SLT and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective 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 assembly rotas including a range of themes, special occasions and events will be followed, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

Themed words for the half term will be introduced in a whole school assembly at the beginning of each half term and focussed on during music assembly and class based Collective worship sessions.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Cycle A	Friendship	Differences	Courage	Forgiveness	Kindness	Trust
Cycle B	Self-Esteem	Respect	Hope	Honesty	Love	Patience

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 will also be used. 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 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.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a 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 manner that is sensitive and inclusive to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly.

Updated 08/09/2021 Mrs Rhonda Collins

