CHARTRIDGE COMBINED SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed Autumn 2023

The policy is to be reviewed Autumn 2026

The collective worship policy at Chartridge Combined School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the local authority through its SACRE. Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Aims of collective worship in Chartridge Combined School

We aim to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together eg festivals, school values, individual achievements
- build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;
- develop a reflective approach to living which sometimes encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable
- worship God or reflect on human values;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

Statutory requirements

By law, Collective Worship must:

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents every day
- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils

This means that collective worship should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Not every act of collective worship needs to comply with this, provided that, taking any school term as a whole, most such acts which take place in the school do comply.

The Collective Worship Policy of Chartridge Combined School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus/website.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in Chartridge Combined School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body.

1. HT/DHT/delegated teacher draws up a rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week.

2. HT/DHT/delegated teacher observes at least 6 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per term to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.

3.Teacher, pupil and, where appropriate, parental views are collected annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved. See Section 3 of this document)

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall. The whole school comes together on Monday and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday KS1/EYs and KS2 meet in the hall or have a class assembly time. Wednesdays is a singing assembly.

We conduct worship time in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this 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 and to listen carefully to the stories and participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

All teaching staff lead collective worship. We endeavour to invite local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups are invited to lead them.

Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by contributing their thoughts and ideas, or by taking an active role to support the teacher delivering the assembly. On Fridays we have "Well Done Assembly" where children's efforts, achievements or behaviour, are celebrated by the whole school. This offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to a class presentation. Each class hosts an assembly once during an academic year. We encourage parents to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome Governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

Acts of worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Leadership

Every member of the school staff, pupils and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. See Appendix for leadership pattern.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources (included in an appendix) in our in acts of collective worship. Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus as this is inclusive of the beliefs of our non-Christian religious pupils. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Collective worship should not be confused with assembly. We often take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices. Using a variety of strategies eg music, silence etc we indicate clearly to all present when worship begins and ends.

Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Headteacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff

Appendix

Leadership Pattern

	Whole School	EY/KS1	KS2
Monday	Teacher (rota provided)	-	-
Tuesday	Class assembly	-	-
Wednesday	Singing assembly		
Thursday	-	KS1 or class	KS2 or class
Friday	Headteacher/Deputy or class presentation	-	-

Themes

We take the themes of our collective worship from a variety of sources.

These include:

- the traditions of the Christian faith, often reflecting the festivals and events of the Christian calendar, as well as the themes from Discovery R.E. Scheme of Work
- Topics taken from the PSHE curriculum (Coram Education, SCARF)
- SMSC themes
- British values
- Our school values

A range of assembly books, as well as internet resources, are used to support our theme. It is planned by the member of staff who is leading the collective worship, tying in with a common theme of the week or month.