



Didcot
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Collective Worship Policy – Whole School & EYFS

This policy is available to parents and prospective parents on the school's website and by request from the School Office. If you require a copy of this document in large print or audio format, please contact the School Office.



Policy Name	Collective Acts of Worship
Review Frequency	Every three years
Statutory Policy	No
Policy Owner	Principal
Lead Reviewer	Principal
Approver and date of last approval	Principal 19.5.23
Key review dates	Changes made
25.4.2016	First written
1.9.19	Monitoring and evaluation section updated – Jodie Croft
19.5.2023	Updated definition of 'Act of Worship', removed reference to PTA for monitoring
August 2026	No changes

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Policy Statement

The Collective Worship Policy at Didcot Primary Academy pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the Local Authority.

In line with 1988 Education Reform Act and 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 school population have a wide range of faiths, and those of no faiths, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Aims

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community;
- grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every-day situations and beliefs;
- celebrate special occasions together;
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them;
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus;
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not;
- learn to be tolerant, kind and respect others in essence 'to treat people as you wish people to treat you'.

Responsibilities

The Principal is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Multi-Academy Trust. The Principal or a member of the leadership team will usually lead the act of worship within whole school assemblies and class teachers will lead the daily act of worship that falls between these.

What is collective worship?

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

The contribution of collective worship to aspects of the curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Didcot Primary Academy, Collective Worship will, at times, feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for 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 pupil with the opportunity to respond on their own level.

The organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or classroom.

Monday: year 1-6 covering a wide range of themes planned termly to link with world religion festivals, and special weeks or days and values.

Tuesday: Singing Assembly Songs linked to the themes of our assemblies.

Wednesday: reflection opportunities at the end of PHSE lessons

Thursday: Key stage 2 assembly covering a wide range of themes planned to link with world religion festivals, and special weeks or days and values

Friday: whole school assembly involving singing as reflection and celebrating the values within our school,

Planning acts of collective worship

The content of all acts of 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.

The act of worship

A variety of teaching 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 be used.

Opportunities will be given for reflection.

Withdrawal

Our assemblies are conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly.

Monitoring and evaluation

The SLT and Principal will monitor the effectiveness of this policy through:

- staff meetings;
- SLT meetings;
- feedback from children