



West Byfleet Infant School
We Belong, Inspire, Succeed

Collective Worship Policy



Context of Policy to our School vision and Values

Our School Vision is 'We Belong, Inspire, Succeed'. This reminds us daily that children need to feel safe and secure within the school community, have opportunities to inspire their interests and an enthusiasm for learning, as well as achieving success at all levels.

At WBIS, we aim to support and encourage children's emotional, social, moral, spiritual and cultural development in a wide-ranging and thoughtful way by ensuring that the ethical values of openness, honesty, social responsibility and caring for others are integral; these values and principles underpin all of our actions.

We believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the values we place on the development of the whole child - spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, and intellectually - is reflected in our worship. At WBIS we also embrace non-Christian celebrations as part of our collective worship in order to educate children of all faith / non-faith backgrounds. We value this time in the school day for the space it gives to pupils to celebrate being part of the school community and to develop a reflective approach to life.

Member of staff responsible	Headteacher
Date Policy Produced	Autumn 2022
Policy agreed/last reviewed	Autumn 2025
Next review date	Autumn 2026
Other Related Policies	RE
Is it a Statutory Policy?	No
Does it need Governor approval?	No

Aims

Collective worship is intended to provide a caring and supportive environment for pupils to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals, and the development of their sense of place - and of others within the school and wider community - in a constantly changing, culturally diverse world.
- Develop a strong sense of belonging and togetherness within the school community, whilst recognising everyone's unique contribution to the school and its shared values.
- Develop an increasing understanding and empathy towards the feelings of others.
- Deepen their sense of awe and wonder of the world in which we live.
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus.
- Acknowledge and celebrate diversity and differences.
- Promote British and our school values.

Practice

Collective worship takes place daily, either as a whole school, year group or class group. Assemblies are led by the Head teacher, members of Senior Leadership Team (SLT) or class teachers. We also have regular visits from local faith groups (e.g. St John's Church).

Assemblies are planned weekly and include a reflection assembly, British Value / School Value assembly, religious assembly, Celebration of achievement, and a focused singing assembly. We also have assemblies led by the school's Eco -Team and School Council to communicate their work to the rest of the school.

Assembly themes match the half termly school values (which are: Wonder, Equality, Honesty, Ambition, Vision & Empathy).

Collective worship reflects the ethos of our school; this being one which is inclusive, co-operative, empathetic and aware of the needs of all. Collective worship takes place in an atmosphere which promotes attitudes of respect, awe and wonder, enquiry, self-understanding and self-reflection. We as a school are fully committed to ensuring the social, moral, spiritual and cultural beliefs of all are met.

This includes being sensitive to family backgrounds and we also take into consideration those who may have religious affiliations and those who do not.

- Special days and acts of remembrance
- Seasonal events are marked by special acts of collective worship e.g. Christmas, Diwali, Eid and Remembrance Day.

Assemblies should recognise the importance of such events to the school and wider community, encouraging inclusion, cultural diversity and encouraging empathy. We positively encourage members of our school community to come in to share their knowledge and celebrate their special days and religious festivals with the whole school through Collective worship assemblies.

Right to withdraw

All parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from assemblies, section 71 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (1998). We recognise this and arrangements for pupils whose parents have expressed the right of withdrawal from school collective worship is organised by SLT. We do however have a strong tradition of being fully inclusive and, whilst we respect parental wishes, we encourage parents to discuss their concerns regarding collective worship with a member of the SLT.

Responsibilities

It is the overall responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure acts of collective worship are effective, fit for purpose and conducted according to school policy.

It is the responsibility of the person conducting the assembly to ensure acts of collective worship and reflection are carried out and that the presentation is reflective of the assembly theme of the week. However, within the legal framework and theme suggestions, staff conducting collective worship are free to employ whatever format that is seen as appropriate.

The use of music, drama, video, or visual aids may supplement the more traditional elements of talks, readings, hymns, and prayers. Imagination and careful preparation are essential if pupils are to broaden their horizons and be led to reflect on fundamental human issues.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Members of the SLT are required to monitor delivery of assemblies termly.