

Codnor Community  
Primary School



# *Collective Worship Policy*

*Spring 2017*

B. Rogers  
Collective Worship Co-ordinator

# **CODNOR COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Policy for Collective Worship**

### **Legal requirements**

The law requires that the Head Teacher and Governing Body of every community school provide a daily act of Collective Worship. This is a requirement of the 1988 Education Act that states that most acts of Collective Worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature.”

More recently, section 70 of the 1998 Act states: “Each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.”

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and teachers have a right not to participate in Collective Worship without penalty to career opportunities.

### **School's core values**

Our school encourages a reflection of the Christian foundation of the school. There is also recognition of the realities and values that are of central importance to a community school.

Our school believes in the core values of Respect, Honesty, Forgiveness, Compassion, Peace, Tolerance, Happiness and Friendship.

The school motto is to:

***“Learn, strive and achieve in a caring Christian environment.”***

We endeavour to provide Collective Worship that provides for the needs of all who share it:

- those who are part of the worshipping community in church;
- those from other Christian traditions;
- those from other faith backgrounds;
- those for whom the school may be their first and only experience of church.

School's Collective Worship is an important feature where all can be involved, contribute and gain from the experience.

It aims to develop the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all those present, but also allows individuals the opportunity to make a free response about their thoughts and beliefs. This is achieved through special termly assemblies which are performed by a different year group each term on the ‘Values for life’ theme we have

been studying. The children are also encouraged to read out prayers that they have written themselves in class or posted in the whole school prayer collection box.

Collective Worship is an integral part of our school life. We seek to celebrate diversity; yet nurture a sense of togetherness, happiness, positivity, fairness and shared values in the school, society and the wider world. We reflect upon moral issues – some of which are current in the world. We take special time out to consider the ‘wonder’ of God, all He has created and to celebrate life.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

Acts of worship are delivered on a daily basis.

The upper school hall is always used for whole-school worship. In afternoon worship, the lower school use the infant hall. When halls are unavailable, it is the class teacher’s responsibility to ensure a collective act of worship takes place.

In both halls there is a focus table for Collective Worship, a candle is lit and a religious book or prayer book is used. This is used to begin Collective Worship and moved at the end of worship. A focus enables pupils to identify the appropriate use of the room and to distinguish between Collective Worship and assembly.

Collective Worship usually lasts no longer than fifteen minutes, but is more generally ten minutes to ensure that it is appropriately paced. To engage children, the emphasis is on story, music or drama.

## **Planning**

Worship for the academic year is broadly in line with the following plan.

At the beginning of every half term (usually on a Monday morning) the Headteacher leads an assembly starting off one of our new key values. These are planned over a two-year cycle and are displayed in every classroom.

- **Monday**
  - Lower School: Led by the KS1 Co-ordinator (PM).
  - Upper School: Led by a KS2 teacher (AM).
- **Tuesday**
  - Lower School: Led by RE Co-ordinator - focus on the Values for Life themes. (PM).
  - Upper School: Led by the Headteacher (AM).
- **Wednesday**
  - Whole School: Led by the Headteacher, Music Co-ordinator and a visitor. Our weekly visitors include Reverend Christopher; Reverend Andrew; the Assembly Team from Waingroves Church; and Valley CIDS, who also then lead a lesson in a different class each term (AM).

- **Thursday**
  - Lower School: Led by the Year 2 teacher with a 'Values for Life' singing/music focus (PM).
  - Upper School: In-class worship or singing with the Music Co-ordinator (AM).
- **Friday**
  - Whole School: Led by the Headteacher, and followed by a celebration of pupil achievement (PM).

Themes are organised on a half-termly basis and are based around the Values for Life 'key values'. Individual class worship can be linked to the current RE topic.

Themes may need to be changed in light of current, local and national affairs, which may require a time of thought and reflection.

Visitors' dates are also displayed in the staffroom and on our website.

## **Planning**

All classrooms have a 'Reflection Area' which is used for daily worship or when Collective Worship does not take place in either of the school halls. It can also be used for class prayer and general reflection. There is also a 'Reflection Area' by the school office.

## **Resources**

There are a range of Collective Worship resources available to reflect all different learning styles and ages. These are kept in the lower school boxes by the library, and upper school have resources next to the reflection area and in the upper school library.

RE resources kept alongside these may also be useful for Collective Worship.

Resources may also be loaned from CIDS (Christians in Derbyshire Schools).

There are also websites which provide Collective Worship programmes both as termly topics and rapid response themes, e.g.:

- [www.assemblies.org.uk](http://www.assemblies.org.uk)
- [www.fischy.com](http://www.fischy.com)
- [www.barnabusinschools.org.uk](http://www.barnabusinschools.org.uk)

## **Leading of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is usually led by the Headteacher. All staff leading Collective Worship plan and use their own resources.

Teachers lead class worship and assemblies in their classrooms and school halls as appropriate. 'Faith minister' pupils are involved in Collective Worship, as well as other children, when opportunities arise.

Visitors, in the main, reflect the Christian ethos of the school and are usually associated with a Christian denominational church.

The school may also visit the Anglican Church (St James') for Collective Worship either as a special occasion or for special events such as 'Remembrance Day', or as part of the RE curriculum. On these occasions, worship is usually led by the vicar.

## **Parents**

There may be opportunities for Collective Worship to be shared with parents, such as at Harvest. When these opportunities are anticipated, informal invitations are sent to those concerned.

## **Assessment and recording**

In keeping with the whole-school policy, recording and evaluation of all Collective Worship is required.

All staff are given the current themes on a half-termly basis.

## **SEND**

School uses all of its regular strategies to ensure that any barriers for children with special requirements are overcome. These may be practical (attending assembly, being able to sit on the floor etc.), or to do with the child's ability to understand/contribute to the proceedings.

## **Policy Review**

A review of the Policy will take place in line with the School Improvement Plan, and in the light of Government, Local Authority and Diocesan requirements.

## **Governor Approval**

Any amendments to the Policy will be presented to the Governors for approval at the next available meeting.

**Bridget Rogers**  
**Collective Worship Co-ordinator**  
**Spring 2017**