

Isleham C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

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Chair of Governing Body signature	
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Isleham Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

According to section 9 of the 1988 Education Reform Act: "All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship". The law requires that most acts of worship in school are of a "broadly Christian Character".

At Isleham C of E Primary School, we interpret this as collective worship which is based on the broad principles and values of Christianity, which is appropriate to pupils whatever their background or personal beliefs.

Aims of Collective Worship in our school

Collective Worship is a time of togetherness and sharing for the whole school community. It provides time for children:

- To recognise the importance of Collective Worship time within the school day.
- To reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of our school community.
- To worship through prayer and reflection.
- To reflect upon spiritual and moral issues.
- To widen the child's emotional response.
- To value and respect the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them and where possible, a knowledge of other faiths and cultures.
- To participate and respond in various ways.
- To explore feelings such as awe, wonder, mystery and joy.
- To be a window into the world.
- To involve, as far as possible, families, friends and the local community.
- To celebrate achievements of others in our school community.
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Favourable ethos is created by some appropriate music to which the children enter and leave. Children are led quietly to their places by the class teacher. The children sit in class lines and teachers sit with them. It is a legal requirement that all children attend Collective Worship unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw their children from all or parts of worship under the 1988 Education Reform Act. In the event of this occurring, children are suitably occupied under the supervision of an adult. Staff leading the Collective Worship will have 3 candles to represent the Holy trinity.

Collective worship times vary across the day, to allow all staff to attend, during the week. Monday to Wednesday the worship is held at 2.55pm and then on a Thursday and Friday it is held at 9.05am.

Collective worship themes

We take the themes of our collective time from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. The themes link with the Diocese of Ely Education Directorate's suggested themes and cover other world religions and global issues. Other collective worship times are linked to the school Christian values of: Community, Compassion, Courage, Justice, Respect and Thankfulness.

We invite parents to class assemblies and special assemblies such as on Mother's Day. In addition, services are held at the church where all are welcome.

What must be included in Collective Worship?

Each collective worship must contain an opportunity for pupils to worship. There should be a time to **reflect and respond**.

Gathering - Children usually enter the hall to music linked to the assembly theme.

Engaging - which could involve storytelling, drama or music. This should be an opportunity for children to engage with the Bible and Christian teaching.

Responding - Through songs and prayer. Prayer is invitational, and of a broadly reflective and spiritual in nature.

Ending -The end of an act of collective worship should be positive to reflect the beginning. This may be a time of personal reflection for the children and staff.

Monitoring- How is this working?

The Collective worship leader, will once a term, meet with a group of children who can represent the school and evaluate their responses.