The Brickfields Trust

Collective Worship Policy

2026

Lawford Mead Primary & Nursery School

Collective Worship Policy

Relationship to other policies

- Equality scheme
- Curriculum
- SMSC

Introduction

We aspire to ensure that the educational experience we offer enables the children in our care to develop as individuals and encompasses the core values of the school. We endeavour to give all children every opportunity to develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally. Acts of collective worship are part of this provision. We interpret Collective Worship as being a gathering of members of the school community in order to reflect on shared values and areas of shared worth and concern, it will include all pupils unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, reflecting the broad tradition of Christian belief. Staff may, without prejudice, withdraw from acts of Collective Worship.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for children to experience religious worship
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues, broadening awareness of self, others and the world in which they live
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs and values, alongside the beliefs and values of others
- To become reflective, thoughtful individuals in a busy and complex society
- To develop a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes

We hope to create an atmosphere in which pupils are invited to explore ideas, reflect upon and learn from the experiences of themselves and others, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.
Pupils are encouraged to develop a sense of belonging to a community with a shared sense of purpose. For example, the values and assumptions that underpin the day to day life of the school, such as honesty, excellence, respect and aspiration often feature in school assemblies.

Collective worship

We acknowledge that our school community is not a ‘worshipping community’ in the same sense as a local church. We provide daily acts of Collective Worship which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in the diverse local and wider community in which they live.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on shared values and areas of shared worth and concern, reflecting the broad tradition of Christian belief. However, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and wider community.

We always conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Organisation of Collective worship

Our school holds a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each morning assembly. The senior leadership team are responsible for co-ordinating the provision of Collective Worship and assemblies.

The law requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God, should they wish to do so, as part of our Collective Worship. We therefore try to provide an opportunity to respond in the form of quiet reflection at some point in each act of collective worship. This time may involve spoken prayers or a thought but can be a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard.

We tell children that assembly time is a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. The acts of collective worship are planned to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on, and respond to, things which we as a school community believe are important. These experiences will include:

- The telling of appropriate stories (Biblical, moral, multi-cultural)
- Poetry
- Music
- Video clips/News reports
- Dance and drama
- Artefacts

Members of teaching staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy, other representatives of local religious groups or visitors to the school conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our assemblies from each school's values, the fundamental British Values, and events on the Christian calendar. Our assemblies also reflect key festivals and events from other faiths and cultures. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of each member school, which includes that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. We celebrate the successes of classes, teams and children at our assemblies.

Parents are sometimes invited to special assemblies.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Children who are withdrawn from assembly are cared for by members of the school staff and are given individual or group tasks to undertake.

Monitoring and review

The effectiveness of the policy is monitored by the senior leadership team who report to the Local

Governing Committee. This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if new guidance becomes available.