


# Burnt Tree Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

Signed by Chair of Governors	
Date	12/12/23
Review Date	December 2024

## **Burnt Tree Primary Collective Worship Policy**

### **Statement of intent**

All pupils at Burnt Tree Primary are required to take part in daily collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues. The policy takes into account the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE document. The daily act of worship is considered an integral and important part of school life, in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act the daily collective worship shall be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” though not representative of a particular Christian denomination. We recognise that many of our pupils are practicing members of other faiths so assemblies are based on aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths. They are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is provided daily, either collectively as a Key Stage or within individual classes. It is a time for all pupils to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues and to promote a clear understanding of British Values (tolerance, mutual respect between those of different faiths and beliefs, democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty).

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1988

This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) ‘Religious Education and Collective Worship’

### **Aims and Objectives**

Collective worship at Burnt Tree aims to:

- To develop children’s knowledge about the community they live in.
- To develop understanding and respect for the traditions, beliefs and practices of those with/without a faith.
- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- To equip the children to have confidence in their own beliefs and moral values.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual’s life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Reinforce British Values.
- To have a sense of belonging in the school community, promoting mutual respect.
- To provide time to reflect, appreciate and celebrate the achievements of others: good work, certificates, etc.
- To provide an opportunity for the whole school to celebrate together.

## **Definition of Collective Worship**

For the purpose of this policy, “collective worship” is an act which is additional to, and separate from, RE lessons. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the values which are fundamental to the school’s ethos, as well as the wider community.

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies, themed assemblies, key stage assemblies, class based assemblies and RE lessons. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon life experiences and ultimate questions and, if appropriate, focus on God. It should allow the pupils to be able to make a spiritual response. Schools often gather for achievement assemblies, singing assemblies and curriculum assemblies. These can be made into an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity for reflection or prayer at the end of these times.

To “take part” in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils.

## **The Management of Collective Worship**

The RE coordinator (Mrs Wood) will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship. The organisation of collective worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom.

## **Weekly collective worship programme**

The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	A KS2 worship assembly is delivered by a member of the teaching staff. KS class worship. Special assemblies for parents throughout the year.
Tuesday	Whole-school singing practice (split into key stages) is delivered by the choir leader. Prayer and reflection time is included at the end of the practice.
Wednesday	A KS1 worship assembly is delivered by a member of the teaching staff. KS2 class worship. Special assemblies for parents throughout the year.
Thursday	Collective worship is held in individual classes. The theme of the worship leads on from the weekly whole school assemblies.

**Friday**

A whole-school (split into key stages) celebration assembly is delivered by SLT and class teachers.

### **Leadership**

Every member of the teaching staff, SLT and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of Collective 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 content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

### **Implementation**

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.
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### **Right to withdraw**

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.

Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

### **Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities**

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

The school will arrange for 1:1 supports to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

### **Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing body.

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is December 2024.