

Riverside Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

September 2025

Reviewed without changes



Riverside Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Background

The Department for Education (DFE) requires that all maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. The must reflect the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship and six-formers can decide for themselves whether or not to attend, without giving reasons to do so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship. Collective Worship guidance is contained in DFE Circular 1/94 which remains current. However, updated guidance on religious education in schools generally is available in Religious Education in English schools: non- statutory guidance 2010.

Introduction

As with all maintained schools, Riverside School is expected to provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This act of collective worship is usually provided within in a daily assembly. The head teacher is responsible under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 for arranging the daily act of collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature depends on the family background, age and abilities of the school's pupils. If ever it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher will apply to the local standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Objectives and Targets

The aim of our collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship God.
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Respond to the worship offered through listening and participation.
- Actively promote fundamental British Values.
- Promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils.

Action Plan

Collective Worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:

- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils.
- Include a variety of elements at different times.
- Involve the pupils.

Responsibility for assuring the quality of the content and delivery of the programme of collective worship rests with the head teacher.

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

Engage in an act of community.

Express praise and thanksgiving to God.

Be still and reflect.

Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.

Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.

Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.

Affirm Christian values and attitudes.

Share each other's joys and challenges.

Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar, but not excluding those from other cultures and faiths.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. The head teacher will monitor its implementation and report to the governors periodically any supportive comments or complaints that have been received about the programme of collective worship, so that the programme may be developed as necessary.

Reviewing

The efficacy of the policy will be discussed annually as part of the governors' rolling programme of reviews.

Next school review due: September 2026