



1. Introduction

a) This policy has been written to ensure the collective worship at Epsom Primary and Nursery School is planned and meets the needs of the children.

b) Definition: Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils the opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences, provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and allows children to develop an understanding of personal values and opinions.

At Epsom Primary and Nursery School, we see the value in collective worship and adhere to our statutory duty by providing 20 minutes of collective worship a day. This time will enable pupils to explore their own beliefs, consider spiritual and moral issues and discuss their thoughts and opinions.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how our school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

We continue to work within the government guidelines for how assemblies are delivered e.g. in person or virtually/pre-recorded in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Aims and objectives

This policy and timetable:

- a) enables us to deliver a programme of collective worship, across the year, which reflects the religious backgrounds of the children at Epsom Primary and Nursery School;
- b) ensures that provision promotes the knowledge and understanding of the faiths that are part of our local community;
- c) promotes our school values that the governors, staff, parents and children decided are important to the lifelong personal development of the children at Epsom Primary and Nursery School;
- d) helps stakeholders understand how collective worship contributes to curriculum coverage e.g. links to the PSHE (Jigsaw) Curriculum and RE scheme of work;;
- e) celebrates the children's and school's successes and a whole school identity;
- f) promotes our Behaviour policy by fostering the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of each and every child.
- g) allows for the exploration and discussion of Fundamental British Values.

4. Organisation

- a) Staff ensure that each assembly ends with time for children to engage in a reflective thought.
- b) A variety of teaching and learning styles are appropriate in acts of collective worship.
- c) The organisation of daily assemblies is outlined in the table below.
- d) KS1 and KS2 have their assemblies together, Reception have their assemblies separately.

Monday	Class Reader time
Tuesday (Singing assembly 2:45-3:10pm)	Practise songs/hymns, cultural music reflection
Wednesday (Whole school – 2:45-3:10pm)	Achievement Assembly led by Michelle Pollard
Thursday (Whole school – 2:45-3:10pm)	Themed assembly based on calendar events (religious and non-religious)
Friday (Whole school 2:45 – 3:10pm)	Class assemblies, festival celebrations, visitors

5. For the school:

a) Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of our school and our school community.

b) We aim to:

- i. share common aims and school values
- ii. celebrate achievement and special times
- iii. explore together the world in which we live
- iv. develop a community spirit
- v. plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection

c) We choose from a range of activities including:

- i. Pupils' contributions
- ii. Reading of sacred scriptures and other appropriate stories
- iii. Dance/drama
- iv. Reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- iv. Artefacts/natural materials
- v. Visual aids/focal points
- vi. Dialogue/creative silence
- vii. Visitors

6. For the pupils:

a) We also intend that collective worship contributes to the development of the pupils as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- i. consider spiritual and moral issues
- ii. explore their own beliefs
- iii. develop their own spirituality
- iv. reinforce positive attitudes
- v. participate and respond
- vi. reflect on what it means to be a positive member of society

7. Links with St Barnabas Church

The school has links with St Barnabas Church and liaise with them throughout the year.

8. Planning

All assemblies are planned for and linked to a school theme or development of a particular area of the curriculum. This further reinforces the links between the school assembly and RE/PSHE in the classroom.

9. Inclusion

At Epsom Primary and Nursery School, it is our aim for all children to be included in the school assembly programme. However, the parent of any pupil may request that their child(ren) be wholly or partially excused from collective worship. Any such request should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

We evaluate our collective worship against some of the following:

- i. the involvement, enjoyment, attention and reaction of pupils
- ii. the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- iii. positive response to shared experience
- iv. contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- v. enrichment of pupils' experiences