

*John Fletcher of Madeley*  
——— *Primary School* ———

# Collective Worship Policy

Date approved: 19 June 2019

Date for review: July 2022

## Definition of Collective Worship

‘Worship comes from the same root as the word ‘worthy’. An act of worship can mean the celebration of, or honour paid to, or service offered to those people or things which are considered worthy. It can, of course, also mean paying homage to a divine power of being.’

*(from Berkshire County Council)*

## Philosophy

Collective Worship is a special time of coming together as a whole School, where the children and staff are given a sense of belonging. In ‘worshipping’ we reflect upon and praise the achievements of others, appreciate the natural and human made world and think about our purpose and influence in the midst of it, drawing mainly on the Christian values and beliefs of a Creator God, the teachings and example of Jesus Christ and the supremacy of love.

School Worship and Assembly are distinct activities:

<b>Collective Worship</b>	<b>Assembly</b>
A gathering of children and staff to explore or respond to deeply held beliefs and values through a range of activities.	A gathering of children and staff for the purpose of notices, announcements and administrative arrangements relating to the organisation and management of the School.

## Main Legal Requirement

There must be a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils.

As a Voluntary Controlled Church of England/Methodist Foundation School we also take into account the Locally Agreed Syllabus and recommendations of the Diocese of Hereford and the Methodist Church.

Responsibility for Collective Worship in a Voluntary Controlled School is the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring requirements are met.

## Aims of Collective Worship:

- To enhance the spiritual development of children;
- To foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence;
- To foster a respectful attitude to God;
- To explore and enjoy praise and prayer;
- To learn about Christian teaching and Biblical material;

- To enjoy and participate in Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the children's experience and to living together in a community;
- To recognise the beliefs and cultures of others, particularly those reflected in the School community;
- To develop understanding and promote tolerance towards other faiths;
- To celebrate achievements of members of the School;
- To develop a sense of community and shared values.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

The 1998 Education Reform Act upholds the terms of the 1944 Education Act which allows parents the right to withdraw their child from part or all of the Collective Worship programme.

Any parent wishing to do so must consult the Headteacher.

Governors believe it is desirable, if practical, for staff to attend the daily act of collective worship. However, it is recognised that some staff may not wish to attend for reasons of belief and/or personal conviction and that is respected.