

Windlesham Village Infant School

Collective Worship Policy



Reviewed: November 2023 (Statutory framework review annually) and approved on 12/12/23 by the LAB.

Schools are required by law to hold a daily act of collective worship as designated by the Education Reform Act 1996.

Through Collective Worship at Windlesham Village Infant School, our children's backgrounds will be acknowledged and celebrated, as well as those of different cultures. This will enable our pupils to develop a growing understanding, awareness and knowledge of the varied practices and beliefs within the school and the local community. We aim to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes. School worship is intended to be inclusive of race, creed and family background.

School Worship is required to be collective rather than corporate and this is reflected in the organisation of worship. Assemblies mean a whole school or part-school gathering. School worship constitutes a part or whole of an assembly, but an assembly does not imply worship has taken place. School worship must be planned for within an assembly.

Aims:

- To provide children with the opportunities to participate in a daily act of worship/reflection.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered
- Develop attitudes that reflect the vision and values of the school
- Become increasingly aware about the different religions and cultures that children in our school belong to
- For the children to begin to understand and start to accept their social and moral responsibilities
- Celebrate their achievements and those of other children in the school
- Reflect on British Values

We aim to make collective worship:

Inclusive – meeting the needs of the children

Curricular – reflecting and supporting other areas of the curriculum

Educational – incorporating knowledge of world religions

Spiritual – contributing to spiritual development, respecting race, creed and family background

Give a sense of occasion – providing opportunity to foster children's feelings of awe, wonder, delight, joy and mystery and extends their natural curiosity

Features of school worship may include:

- Readings from the Bible
- Stories
- Singing
- Video Clips
- Prayer
- Quiet reflection
- Drama
- Art
- Artefacts

Organisation:

We hold a daily assembly between 1.05 – 1.20pm. Children are expected to behave appropriately for an act of worship, including entering and leaving quietly. The children enter and leave assemblies to music. The daily assemblies take a different format each day. The Minister from our local church comes into school and takes Collective Worship when appropriate.

Children can be withdrawn from Collective Worship by their parents for various reasons after discussion with the Headteacher. All staff have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship, unless they have been employed specifically for this purpose.

Assembly at Windlesham Village Infant School currently takes place as follows:

Monday:	Values and PSHE assemblies linked to a weekly theme
Tuesday:	Religious assemblies with Act of Worship led by Mrs Ezzard as R.E. Leader/visitors from different churches/religions
Wednesday:	'Leadership' (Trick Box) assembly led by Miss Powell
Thursday:	Story Assembly with Miss Shine
Friday:	Celebration Assemblies (sharing good work and upholding values)

The RE Leader is responsible for organising and planning "special" assemblies such as Harvest and Christmas and for establishing links with local faith leaders for their participation in particular worship occasions.

Content:

Collective Worship is thematically based and incorporates the various faiths' calendars, making full use of celebrations and festivals. Each assembly begins and ends with music. Stories, both thematic and religious are used as resources. Involvement of the children is also an important part of the assembly.

Display and resources are actively used to enhance the spirit of Collective Worship.

Resources:

Resources for Collective Worship are kept in the library, in a cupboard in the Yr 1 area and above the photocopier. Twinkl is a good source of video clips/presentations. Trick Box have some prepared assemblies. Guildford Diocese Board of Education have good resources and planned Acts of Worship online, with editable powerpoints.

Guidance for visitors leading assemblies

Visitors will usually be recommended/known to staff and where this is not the case, a more thorough initial conversation will take place to ensure the appropriateness of the assembly content.

Visitors are expected to deliver messages in line with our school ethos, to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British Values, particularly mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Visitor assemblies will always be supervised by staff who will intervene if content is felt to be inappropriate or contradictory to the principles outlined above.

Visitors will be given the safeguarding leaflet for volunteers. Visitors will not be left alone with pupils, in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policies.