


<p>Collective Worship</p> <p>Policy</p>	
DATE OF ADOPTION: March 2019	
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: March 2022	
TO BE REVIEWED BY: Learning and Wellbeing Committee	

The Collective Worship Policy at Decoy Community Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be *'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character,'* we conduct our collective worship to meet this aim, acknowledging the values of the school and other faiths and beliefs of all members of our school and the society in which they live.

Whilst many of the themes behind our collective worship are drawn from the traditions of the Christian faith, we incorporate cherished British values including justice and fairness and develop an understanding of the tenets and celebrations of other faiths.

The Collective Worship Policy of Decoy Community Primary School is consistent with the aims and values of the school as expressed on the school website and in the school prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when pupils within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

At Decoy we believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. We foster a caring ethos and nurture the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually; this is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Decoy Community Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- reflect on that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- experience awe and wonder first-hand
- enhance their understanding about the wonders and worries of the world
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every-day situations and beliefs
- reflect on what it means to be human and the responsibility humanity has to care for all life on our planet
- acknowledge and celebrate diversity
- find time for quiet individual reflection
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Decoy Community Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Senior Leadership Team will be to plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship. The role of the Governing Body is to ensure that there is provision for collective worship through school assemblies.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, community room or classroom. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Leading Acts of Collective Worship

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year. Staff have the right to withdraw. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

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.

Collective Worship themes will relate to special occasions and events, as well as current and topical issues.

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Decoy Community Primary School. Leaders from faiths and non-religious groups within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these traditions.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection.

We will choose content for acts of collective worship from a variety of sources, this can include:

- pupil's contributions
- sacred and secular stories
- dance and drama
- hymns, music, reflection and prayer
- visual aids
- dialogue and creative silence
- visitor contribution

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself.

Announcements may be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Success Criteria

At this school we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- the involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- a positive contribution to individual and community sense of well being

Withdrawal

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.