



Templemoor Infant and Nursery School

Collective Worship Policy



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Important information

This policy and related documents include information and guidance for school staff and our out of school provision.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups 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.

Introduction

At Templemoor Infant and Nursery School we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

Aims

The central aims of Collective Worship at Templemoor Infant and Nursery School are to:

- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- support the social and emotional development of our pupils through making use of the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme
- celebrate the values of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama, visitors and other visual and oral means of communication
- develop a community spirit
- to promote British values including democracy, the rule of law, mutual respect, individual liberty and tolerance of different faiths and cultures. This includes national and internationally celebrated religious events and notable national days and events.

Legal Requirements

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief."

At Templemoor Infant and Nursery School we have developed a range of themes and topics through which Collective Worship takes place. Key themes include honesty, fairness, trust, perseverance, friendship, and courage. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application.

We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all (please refer to the School Context table below). Great care is taken in our Collective Worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at Templemoor is an inclusive activity.

School Context

Religious representation at Templemoor in 2015-16 is:

No Religion	46.37%
Christian	43.58%
Muslim	6.16%
Hindu	2.79%
Other	0%
Refused to say	1.1%

(Figures correct for 2015-16 Academic Year)

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the 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.

- An act of Collective Worship is held daily either in assembly or in the classrooms.
- In Key Stage One, assemblies are held in the school hall three times per week on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday for approximately 15 minutes. Reception children join assemblies in the summer term.
- Children are expected to enter and leave the hall in silence.
- Calming music is played at the start and end of assemblies to provide a calming atmosphere.
- On occasion, a visiting speaker is invited to an assembly.
- Celebration assembly on a Monday celebrates a child's achievements outside of school.
- On Wednesday, the assembly is linked to the whole school SEAL programme, or national and internationally celebrated religious events and notable national days and events promoting the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Our Friday assembly, 'Golden Book Assembly' reflects the achievements and learning of the children. It also plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Templemoor is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at this assembly.
- Termly year group assemblies enable us to celebrate the achievements of the whole year group. Parents/carers and Governors attend this assembly and the children gain an understanding of the sense of community in its widest form.

The children are always involved at these times in listening and responding, sometimes speaking, reading and singing. The corporate spirit and ethos of the school is emphasised and enhanced during these activities.

Leadership

Every member of the teaching staff will be involved in leading acts of worship. Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time. When religious visitors come in to school, they will first be asked to read the 'Religious Believers Visiting Schools, Guidance and a Code of Conduct' document. Staff will ensure that the context of the assembly will not undermine a child's own faith or challenge their belief and will only be presenting a knowledge base about a faith. 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.

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. Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

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 of Collective Worship must be sufficiently stimulating as to engage the children. An opportunity must be given to allow time for the children to express themselves through reflection.

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural development (SMSC)

Collective Worship provides children with the opportunity to reflect about different cultures and religions from around the world. We aim to develop an understanding and acceptance of different views and customs from across the globe. SMSC is at the heart of our school's ethos.

British Values/The Prevent Duty

In all subject areas, children are encouraged to learn about working together in pairs and groups and treating others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background. Children develop an understanding of rules within school and society in order to be prepared for life in modern Britain. Collective Worship encourages children to learn about decision-making, making informed choices, debating and democracy. We link the PREVENT agenda to our curriculum to enable our children to make informed choices around how to be a good citizen and demonstrate good British values. We ensure that our school vision, values, curriculum and teaching promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The governing body also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice and that there are the necessary documents and practices in place to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

Withdrawal from Key Stage One Religious Collective Worship

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from worship of a religious nature, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly.

If parents wish to withdraw their child/children from Collective Worship they need to:

- Collect and complete a 'Parent request for child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship' form from the school office (see Appendix 1)
- Meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns. Whilst the meeting is not a means to change parents' minds, it is necessary for the Headteacher to ensure that parents are fully informed about the important role that Collective Worship plays in the curriculum and the school's responsibility to promote British Values and fulfil its safeguarding duties.
- Establish with the Head Teacher the practical implication of the withdrawal.

Staff have the right to withdraw from acts of religious collective worship after consultation with the Head teacher; this needs to be agreed both verbally and in written form. Staff who withdraw from acts of collective worship will be expected to attend the remainder of any assembly when invited and to fulfil their standard duties of supervision and care of children entering and exiting any assembly.

The role of the Governing Body

To ensure that there is provision for collective worship in school.

Links to other Policies

The Collective Worship Policy is written in conjunction to and linked with the following:

RE Policy

PSHE Policy

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Equality Policy

Teaching and Learning Policy

Safeguarding Policy

British Values Statement

Religious Believers Visiting Schools, Guidance and a Code of Conduct

Templemoor Infant and Nursery School



Parent request for child to be withdrawn from Religious Collective Worship

(A separate form needs to be completed for each child in school for each academic year.)

Full name of child	
Date of Birth	
Current Class	

Please complete the boxes below:

I request that my child is withdrawn from Religious Collective Worship. Please sign below.

The reasons for my wish to withdraw my child from Religious Collective Worship is: (please outline your reasons in the box below – this section is optional but will help the school understand your reasons and assure the school that it has communicated effectively about school policy).

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I confirm that I have fully understood the content of the Collective Worship Policy. Whilst exercising my right to withdraw my child from Religious Collective Worship I fully support the school aims and values.

Name of Parent	
Signature	
Date	

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EXAMPLE: Assembly Themes: Spring Term 2016

The school assembly rota is developed around the school values.

Our Assemblies also promote British values including **democracy** (local, national and international), the **rule of law**, **mutual respect**, **individual liberty** and **tolerance of different faiths and cultures**. This includes national and internationally celebrated religious events and notable national days and events.

Additionally, assemblies at Templemoor Infant and Nursery School recognise the need to respond to and discuss major world events as they occur; e.g. sudden natural physical events (e.g. flooding, earthquakes).

Theme for the half term	<p>The theme is about understanding our feelings as well as considering our strengths and weaknesses as learners. It aims to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in three key social and emotional aspects of learning: self-awareness, managing feelings and empathy.</p> <p>The theme focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ understanding feelings, and why and how they lead us to behave the way we do – excited, proud, surprised, hopeful, disappointed, worried and anxious; ▪ self-awareness – feeling good about myself, taking risks; ▪ managing my feelings – relaxing, coping with anxiety; ▪ standing up for myself – assertiveness, standing up for my views.
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March 1st - Saint David's Day, March 3rd – World Book Day, March 6th - Mothering Sunday

Date	Staff Member	Theme
Monday 29 th February	Mr Hodgson	Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 1 st March	In class	
Wednesday 2 nd March	Mr Hodgson	SEAL: Good to be Me (Dealing with feelings)
Thursday 3 rd March	All staff	World Book Day
Friday 4 th March	Mr Hodgson	Golden Book Assembly

Policy History

Policy Holder	Stuart Hodgson
Committee responsible for Policy	Teaching, Learning and Achievement

Policy Approval

Approved by Sub Committee	25 th February 2016	Approved by Full Governing Body	8 th March 2016
		Signature of Chair	J Davenport

Policy Reviews

Review Number	Reviewed and Approved by Committee	Ratified by Full Governing Body	Signature of Chair