



PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, HULME

Collective Worship Policy

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1. Introduction

St Philip's Church of England Primary School welcomes all children from the local community. We acknowledge that many of our pupils are not members of the Christian faith and, as such, we respect the different cultures and diverse religious backgrounds from which the children come. We are a voluntary aided school working in line with guidelines issued by the Diocese of Manchester.

Our daily act of worship is instrumental in developing, celebrating and exploring the values that are important to us all. This is in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act, which state that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that a number of our children are practising members of other faiths, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths. The school remains Christian in its foundations, teaching the values of Christianity such as respect, love, tolerance that then can be seen as a cross over into other faiths.

2. Aims

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of St Philip's Church of England Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Gain knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- Develop a community spirit and contribute to a pupil's spiritual development
- Explore and empathise with the beliefs of members of other faiths
- Share common aims and values
- Contribute to pupil's moral development
- Explore and celebrate the life in which we live and respond to the wider world

3. Links to Legislation

The law (The Education Reform Act of 1988) states that collective worship should:

- *Provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God*
- *Consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs*
- *Encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, and, joining in the worship offered.*

- *Develop a community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.*

4. Intent

Collective worship is intended to be appropriate for, and to include, all pupils attending a school, regardless of their own personal faith. Collective worship in schools differs from the corporate worship of believers of a particular faith.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship on the grounds of religious conscience. The head teacher will meet with any parents having concerns. If the parents then wish to withdraw their child, written notice should then be given to the school Governing Board.

The child should attend for the 'assembly' part (general school notices, and information) and withdraw from the worship with material provided by their parents from their own faith. Collective worship sets out to help children to come together to reflect on a common theme or value. The nature of these acts of worship typically contains some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief, which accord a special status to Jesus Christ. They can be also broadly in the tradition of another religion, as long as they conform to Christian values of the school.

5. Organisation

Efforts are made to create an atmosphere conducive to worship. Preparations for assemblies are made in advance.

Overview of assemblies and collective worship:

	Theme	
Monday	Whole school assembly	Responsibilities connected with good attendance. Reflection. Collective worship.
Tuesday	Class reflection time	Linked to themes from the Religious education syllabus.
Wednesday	Singing assembly	To sing songs based on the Christian values. Collective worship.
Thursday	Class reflection time	Linked to themes from the Religious education syllabus.
Friday	Celebration assembly	Celebration of pupil attainment and achievement. Certificates awarded to pupils who model the school's Christian principles and school ethos. Collective worship.

Special assemblies will be held at key points in the Christian and School Year including: Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Assembly. There will also be assemblies led by each class and members of other Christian organisations. Occasional assemblies may be led by visitors from other faiths or from organisations involved in the life of the community. Parents and carers are invited to attend these assemblies

6. School Prayers

School has a lunchtime prayer (see Appendix 1)

We are introducing a new school prayer for the end of the day (see Appendix 2)

7. Diocesan Policy

The Diocese states that as part of the Religious Education curriculum, school is to teach 80% Christianity and 20% other faiths. The provision in this policy is in line with Diocesan policy on worship in voluntary aided schools.

Appendix 1

Whole school lunchtime prayer

For health and strength and daily food,
We thank You God
Amen

Appendix 2

Whole school end of day prayer

God our Father, I come to say,
Thank You for Your love today.
To help me aspire and do what's right
Please shine on me Your guiding light.
Amen