



ARCHBISHOP OF YORK'S CE JUNIOR SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Date Adopted February 2021	Jonathan Green Headteacher	Signature 
Date for review February 2024	Fiona Phillips Chair of Governor	Signature 

1.0 STATEMENT OF INTENT

All pupils at the Archbishop of York's CE Junior School (AYJS) are required to take part in daily collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

At the Archbishop of York's CE Junior School, the daily act of worship is considered an integral and important part of school life. In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the daily collective worship shall be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is provided in a daily whole-school assembly, and is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

2.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- b) DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship' (see page 21 para. 60)

3.0 POLICY AIMS

Collective worship at the Archbishop of York's CE Junior School aims to:

- a) Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- b) Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- c) Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- d) Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- e) Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- f) Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- g) Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- h) Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- i) Reinforce positive attitudes.

4.0 DEFINITION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

For the purpose of this policy, **“collective worship”** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school’s ethos.

To **“take part”** in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

5.0 ORGANISATION AND PLANNING

- a) The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing body.
- b) The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily from 10:10am-10:35am in the school hall.
- c) Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to the school and decided on by the Worship Planning Team.
- d) The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- e) The headteacher will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.
- f) The school invites visitors or guest speakers to lead collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils’ needs, ages and interests by:

- a) Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- b) Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- c) Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils’ interest.
- d) Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

7.0 WEEKLY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PROGRAMME

The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Day of the week	Delivery of programme
Monday	A whole-school worship is delivered by the Headteacher.
Tuesday	Whole-school hymn practice is delivered by the music subject leader, assisted by two other members of staff. Prayer and reflection time is included at the end of the hymn practice.
Wednesday	A whole school worship is delivered by the Vicar, Curate or another special guest.
Thursday	A whole-school worship assembly is delivered by the Deputy Headteacher or 'Open the Book'.
Friday	A whole-school celebration assembly is delivered by the headteacher. Prayer and reflection time is included.

8.0 RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the Headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- a) The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- b) The practical implications of withdrawal.
- c) Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the Headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

The Headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- d) The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- e) Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- f) The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

9.0 PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

10.0 CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

When the School is partially open during periods of national or local lockdown Collective Worship will be delivered remotely. These sessions will be either recorded or live and led by members of staff. Collective Worship will still be delivered remotely when the School is fully open but pupils and staff are in discrete Year Group or Class Bubbles.

11.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed over a two year period by the Headteacher in agreement with the Governing Body. It will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.