

# LONG MEAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY



<b>Policy name</b>	<b>Collective Worship</b>
<b>Date written</b>	<b>March 2024</b>
<b>Date of renewal</b>	<b>March 2027</b>
<b>Senior member of staff with oversight</b>	<b>Headteacher</b>

## **Policy for Collective Worship**

### **Introduction**

This school policy should be read in conjunction with 'Developing Good Practice in Collective Worship' – Kent SACRE Guidance and our PSHE policy.

- All maintained schools provide a daily act of worship for registered pupils, apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents; in accordance with the 'The Education Reform Act 1998'.
- It is a daily focal point for the transmission and development of all that the school stands for in terms of beliefs, values, moral codes and community ethos.
- Worship may take place with different school groups: key stages, year groups, and classes.

The themes of our worship reflect those of The Kent Agreed Syllabus and our PSHE scheme.

The daily act of collective worship plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our children/young people to 'enjoy and achieve' and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

Aims:

- to provide children with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood);
- to give children opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian (and other faith traditions') stories, events and festivals and how these might effect their lives;
- to offer experiences and opportunities for children to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs;
- to promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship.

These aims mean that our collective worship programme is such that we can include all our school community.

### **The Nature of Worship**

Acts of worship reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities.

We aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature

- Consider moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Participate and respond
- Give our children/young people some 'space' to be quiet and to think reflectively
- Develop a community spirit
- Reflect on what is going on in the world around them
- Share in the common ethos and values of the school
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Reflect on the awe and wonder of life and the beauty of the natural world
- Develop an understanding of British values
- Be aided in spiritual, moral and cultural development
- Use of the Bible and other sacred texts as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced. Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate;
- Mark appropriate festivals and other significant days;

### **Implementation Procedures**

- Collective Worship is of a broadly Christian focus but also reflects the multi-faith society in which we live.
- Songs, including hymns, should be chosen with care, ensuring appropriate language and content.
- Prayers and moments of reflection must be in a language appropriate for the children and reflect the pluralist society in which we live.
- Acts of worship are linked to the school's chosen areas of RE study - Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Themes reflected encompass celebration, relationships, communication, specialness, community, values and journeys.
- The assemblies are also based on British values, PSHE, School Values, behaviour and safety e.g. E-safety and road safety.

The Senior Leadership Team prepares a list of themes for the term/academic year. This is distributed to each member of staff.

### **Health, Safety and Well-being**

In collective worship we follow the health, safety and well-being policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using electrical equipment or other resources. In line with our 'net-safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked by the leader prior to their use in acts of collective worship. In the event of fire all children must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the buildings where collective worship takes place. Visitors are not to be left unaccompanied with children/young people. All visitors must sign in and appropriate risk assessments to have taken place prior to their visit. This is to be written and read alongside the External Speaker and Public Speaking Policy.

### **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed

### **Format of Assemblies**

- Pupils and adults are expected to leave and enter the place of assembly in a quiet reflective manner.
- Silent signals are used as far as possible to reinforce expectations.
- The person who is leading the assembly is expected to be present first
- Active participation with focused listening is an essential part of collective worship.
- All teaching staff are to be present in assembly.

### **Timetable of Collective Worship (Usually 15-20minutes)**

Monday	<b>KS1 and KS2</b>	Led by a member of the SLT based on a theme (Values and Picture News)
Tuesday	<b>KS1 and KS2</b>	Led by a member of the teaching staff based on a theme (Events and Celebrations)
Wednesday	<b>EYFS, KS1 and KS2</b>	Singing assembly
Thursday	<b>EYFS, KS1 and KS2</b>	Class assemblies time set by class teacher - PSHE themes, school values and circle time
Friday	<b>EYFS, KS1 and KS2</b>	Celebration Assembly

### **Resources**

- A varied selection of books containing stories and teaching material is available in the RE resource area.
- Local ministers lead assemblies on certain special occasions - currently Easter, Harvest and Christmas.
- Other visitors are invited in throughout the year such as road safety, e-safety and governors.