

Juniper Hill School

# Collective Worship Policy



*Kindness Enjoyment Achievement*









Reviewed March 2025

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The collective worship policy at Juniper Hill School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the local authority through its SACRE. Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.




### **Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective worship in Juniper Hill School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

-  experience a variety of styles of worship
-  celebrate together e.g. festivals, school values, individual achievements
-  build a sense of community/foster a whole school identity;
-  develop a reflective approach to living which sometimes encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
-  worship God or reflect on human values;
-  consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
-  participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
-  feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

### **Statutory Requirements**

By law, Collective Worship must:

-  take place for every child, not withdrawn by their parents, every day
-  be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
-  take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils

This means that collective worship should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Not every act of collective worship needs to comply with this, provided that, taking any school term as a whole, most such acts which take place in the school do comply.

### **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in Juniper Hill School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this, it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of monitoring of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body, to ensure the school complies with school policy and the law.

## **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall or the classroom.

Acts of worship usually last for approximately 10 - 20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

The current pattern of collective worship is:

Monday	In classrooms
Tuesday	Whole School Assembly
Wednesday	In classrooms
Thursday	In classrooms
Friday	Whole School 'Celebration Assembly'

Collective Worship in the classroom will mostly be in the form of a classroom discussion, for the younger children, this may be responding to a book that has been read. Collective Worship in the classroom allows the children opportunities to talk about and reflect upon particular values or issues in a smaller more age appropriate setting. Collective Worship may take place at the end of a Life Skills or PSHE lesson, as this provides the children with the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues

## **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of acts of collective worship is considered in advance to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time, they are required to follow our Visitor Policy and Prevent Policy

## **The Act of Collective Worship**

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship. Those leading make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils. Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Any prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus as this is inclusive of the beliefs of our non-Christian religious pupils. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

## **Withdrawal**

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Headteacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have

concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff.