



## Abbey Meads Community Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy

October 2022 Update

#### **Philosophy of collective worship at Abbey Meads Community Primary School**

"The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me a continual spiritual journey."

*Leo Buscaglia*

"Stillness is the altar of spirit." *Paramahansa Yogananda (1893-1952)*

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

*Albus Dumbledore (J.K. Rowling)*

Collective worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by all students and staff, and visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

#### **Collective Worship and the Law**

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking into account of the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will be only made following discussions with the Head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Special arrangements will be made by governors to supervise children withdrawn from acts of worship. In addition, staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship.

"The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups."

*The School Standards and Framework Act 1998*

#### **Rationale**

Inclusion is important to our vision and we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils. There is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for all pupils at different levels of understanding. Collective worship is first for the educational benefit of all pupils.

It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith (or none) to focus and reflect on stimuli, which allows the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the backgrounds from which pupils come. The daily act of Collective Worship may take place in any place or any time in the school day - for example, as part of circle time and not necessarily as part of a daily assembly.

**At AMCPs, Collective Worship we aim to:**

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member
- Give expression to reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others - recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of different faiths and world views
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:
  - Experience stillness and quiet
  - Experience a variety of forms of music, art, drama, stories that lead to personal reflection
  - Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

**At AMCPs, we arrange Acts of Collective Worship and Assemblies in the following ways:**

Day	Time	Grouping	Place	Leadership	Theme/Pupils' Role
Monday	8.50am	KS1 or KS2	Hall	Head Teacher / Deputy Head Teacher	Where the assembly is the vehicle for the collective worship, the internal themes of the assembly rota are delivered by the teachers.  Where circle times are being used, the foci are taken from SMSC elements of the PSHE Jigsaw scheme, and world events.
Tuesday	Time dependent on year groups	Year Group / Classes	Classrooms	Class Teacher	
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday Golden Book and Sharing Assembly	8.50am	Whole school	Hall	Head Teacher	

**Leadership, Planning and Evaluation of Collective Worship/Assemblies**

The calendar for Collective Worship draws on broadly Christian foci, World Religious events and the school values. It is planned for by the coordinator for RE/Worship and evaluated by the Senior Leadership Team and Governors.

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship to ensure effective delivery and learning. Staff have access to appropriate training and mentoring to equip them in their roles as worship/assembly leaders.

All pupils attend an Act of Collective Worship/Assembly each day. These are organised on a rota and include whole school, phase-based and class-based worship. A record is kept of Collective Worship. The Worship Coordinator is responsible for keeping this record. The SLT is responsible for monitoring Collective Worship. Children, teachers, and governors are all involved in the evaluation of Collective Worship. The head teacher reports outcomes to the Governing Body.

## Special services

We include in our rota of assembly foci special times, e.g. Leavers' service, special times of celebration, such as Red Nose Day and Poppy Day of Remembrance.

## Music and art as part of our act of worship

Music and videos are played before and after our assemblies, to highlight that this is a special time for us to be together. We use music as part of our act of worship, where appropriate to the theme, as we see expressive arts as a medium able to evoke deep, intense feelings that are a part of an individual and theirs alone; memories and emotions of visual images.

The expressive arts used may be selected to enhance the atmosphere for worship, stillness and reflection, or to inspire thought and talking points in the areas of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The listening aspect of this time is also used to introduce children to:

- Music of a variety of styles, cultures and traditions
- A range of composers and famous works
- Recognition and appraisal of a range of musical elements

## Visitors to school

Visitors leading collective worship are given clear instructions concerning the age and ability of the pupils, purpose of occasion and appropriate delivery (content and material used).

The school will ensure that checks are made about connections with the school e.g. parent, charity representative, clergy from another denomination, adviser.

There will be a sharing of the aims and objectives of the visits and links made to the overall scheme for Collective Worship. The visitor's method will be reviewed before another invitation is extended. Visitors should report to the office to announce their arrival. All visitors must sign the visitor's book, acknowledge our safeguarding and fire evacuation procedures and are supported by a member of the school staff. They will also be thanked as they leave the building.

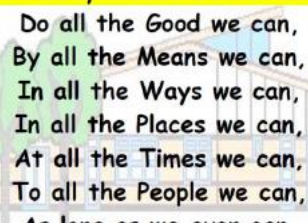
### SCHOOL PRAYER

This is our school  
Let peace dwell here  
Let the rooms be full of contentment  
Let love abide here  
Love of one another  
Love of mankind  
Love of life itself and  
Love of God  
Let us remember  
as many hands build a house  
so many hearts make a school

### **Abbey Meads School** **Do All the Good You Can**

**At Abbey Meads School we ...**

Do all the Good we can,  
By all the Means we can,  
In all the Ways we can,  
In all the Places we can,  
At all the Times we can,  
To all the People we can,  
As long as we ever can.



## **Bristol SACRE Guidance on Collective Worship**

### **Time to Breathe**

#### ***Quick Summary***

- Collective worship is good for the life-blood of the school.
- It provides a platform for the communication of the shared values and expectations of the school.
- It is the coming together and the knitting of the community.
- It offers a rhythm and a set-aside space, time and place for spirituality and stillness.
- It offers stories of inspiration and hope and a time to share when times are sad or hard.

#### ***There is a legal requirement for Collective Worship***

- All schools and academies have a legal duty to provide a daily act of collective worship.
- This can take part at any time of the school day and in any grouping.
- Acts of worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
- Where worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character is inappropriate, the head teacher and governors may apply to the local SACRE for a "determination": to arrange assemblies/worship that is not wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- Parents (and pupils over the age of 16) have the right to withdraw from collective worship.
- Swindon SACRE has an expectation that each maintained school or academy within the authority will have developed their own Collective Worship Policy, which can be found on the school's website.