# Collective Worship Policy

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| Date Agreed by Governors | Summer 2015 |
| Reviewed | Summer 2018 |
| Reviewed | Summer 2021 |
| Reviewed | Autumn 2024 |
| Reviewed | Aut6mn 2024 |
| Next Review | **Autumn 2028** |

| **Linked Documents** |
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| Collective Worship Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Guidelines for schools in Newham (2015) https://www.newham.gov.uk/downloads/file/326/collectiveworshipsacreguidelines |
| DfE Collective Worship in Schools Guidance (1994) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7cd8f740f0b6629523c2b7/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf |
| R.E. Policy |
| Staff Code of Conduct |

**The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) articles which inform this policy are:**

- Article 2: The UNCRC applies to every child
- Article 3: The best interest of the child must be top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children
- Article 12: Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.
- Article 14: Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practice their religion.
- Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and their environment.

**School's Purpose:** To prepare pupils for lifelong success

**School's Vision:** At Godwin Junior School we:

- Value everyone
- Instil a love of learning
- Seek and encourage talent
- Inspire resilient learners
- Open minds to develop responsible global citizens
- Nurture confident, articulate individuals

**Introduction**
The Collective Worship Policy at Godwin Junior School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.
In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are either practising members of other faiths or do not have a religion, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths, as well as the British Values of Tolerance, Mutual Respect, Individual Liberty, Democracy and The Rule of Law. Our Collective Worship Policy is consistent with our philosophy, purpose and vision and our acts of collective worship are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

**Aims of Collective Worship**
- to promote and share common aims and values, reinforcing positive attitudes
- to celebrate achievement and special occasions
- to provide an opportunity for children to explore the world and issues within it
- to develop a sense of community, both within our school and the local area
- to encourage spiritual and moral growth through pupils reflecting on their personal beliefs
- to support pupils to consider relationships and behaviour and reflect on the direction of their lives
- to allow children to participate and respond to specific themes

**Collective Worship and Assembly**
At Godwin Junior School, we follow the 'Collective Worship SACRE Guidelines for Schools in Newham' 2015. This states that, "Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, although they may take place as part of the same gathering. Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon life experiences and ultimate questions and, if appropriate, focus on God. It should allow the pupils to be able to make a spiritual response…Schools often gather for achievement assemblies, singing assemblies and curriculum assemblies. These can be made into an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity for reflection or prayer at the end of these times. Without it they stay as an assembly."

Our assembly themes have at their core our Purpose and Vision Statement, the British Values and the United Nations Convention on The Rights of The Child. The assembly calendar, which is drawn up by the Senior Leadership Team, also takes into account key national and international dates and religious festivals. Our Friday assembly provides the opportunity for the school to celebrate some of the children's achievements.

During each assembly, pupils have the opportunity to reflect on the theme, often discussing their thoughts with a Learning Partner during the session. At the end of the assembly, two pupils deliver a reflection which they have composed themselves, encapsulating the theme of the assembly and asking others to think deeply about their own feelings and beliefs.

**Assembly Format**
Assemblies are usually delivered by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children know that they are expected to be quiet and thoughtful and that it is a special time for calm reflection. All staff are expected to attend and take part in Friday's celebration assemblies.



**PLUG IN –** this is about awakening the children

Using a stimulus e.g. music, picture, quotation, candle, flowers. We need to give the children time to prepare. A well chosen piece of music can help create an atmosphere for worship and reflection.




**SWITCH ON – this is about engaging the children**

It will usually focus on a particular story, article, drama or message. Using different approaches and involving different people will provide variety in worship. The material should be presented in an appealing way and be appropriate to the age group. Visual aids and artefacts can provide useful illustrations of key points and help the children to remember the message.



**LIGHT UP –** this is about allowing the children to respond.

It must include an opportunity for the pupils to reflect and if appropriate for them, to think about God. It may be a prayer, poem or guided reflection. This part must take place for it to be collective worship. Silence can allow time for individual thought and reflection, or prayer as appropriate.

- Music is played as children arrive and leave assembly in silence
- Children are greeted at the start of the assembly with, 'Good Morning Godwin' in our 'Language of the Half Term'
- The content of the assembly is determined by the published termly schedule
- Resources are used to support the teaching content of the assembly. This may include pictures, PowerPoint presentations, artefacts, video clips etc
- Assemblies are interactive and often there will be the opportunity for children to talk to a Learning Partner before being asked to share their thoughts
- Staff who are supporting children with particular needs to access the assembly will sit with their child and facilitate their inclusion in the assembly. They will also support the person leading the assembly to supervise children as appropriate.
- Guest speakers are invited to attend and address the children where appropriate, e.g. speakers from: our local foodbank to talk about how donations support local people, Amnesty International during Refugee Week and our local Community Police Officer.
- During the assembly, two children will compose a reflection based on its content and share this with their peers.

**Right of Withdrawal**

Our assemblies and acts of collective worship will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as possible to ensure that all children feel comfortable to participate. However, under Section 25 of the 1944 Education Act, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship. Parents/carers are asked to put this request in writing, but do not have to explain or give reasons for their decision.

A record of children who withdraw will be maintained by the school. We will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of children who withdraw from assembly.