



*Inspiring All to Excellence*



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**Anker Valley Primary Academy**

# **Collective Worship Policy**

## Document Control

Policy Title	Collective Worship Policy
Effective Date	September 2023
Policy Owner	Anker Valley Primary Academy
Policy Approver	Local Governing Body

## Version Control

Version	Date	Amended by	Comments

Section	Changes Made

## **Aims and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

## **Collective worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. It is our expectation that everyone will take an active part in an assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school and the wider community.

## **Organisation of collective worship**

At Anker Valley Primary Academy, we hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of a daily morning assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly (as the school grows, we may choose to also hold separate KS1/KS2 assemblies), or a class assembly.

- We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- The assemblies are normally conducted by the head of school or other members of staff, but may sometimes be led by local clergy, other representatives of local religious groups or alternative guest speakers.
- We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.
- Each week, there is a Family Merit Assembly that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

## **Right of withdrawal**

At Anker Valley Primary Academy, we expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly.

Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The head of school keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.