



Assembly, Reflection & Collective Worship Policy

Agreed: March 2023

Review: Spring 2026

Rationale

The education act and guidance of Religious education and collective worship of 1994 states that collective worship should:

'aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes'

Fielding Primary School takes an active approach in the development of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) aspects of our pupils' education and our approach to assemblies and collective worship supports this.

We recognise the legal responsibility to provide a daily act of 'collective worship' for all registered pupils. We recognise that our families hold a range of different beliefs, including no religion. Therefore, 'reflection' rather than 'worship' seeks to make collective worship inclusive for all pupils rather than secularise the experience.

Fielding Primary School is a Values-based school. Assembly and other opportunities for reflection are therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together and learn as a community about our core values and how these can be and are demonstrated in the world. Reflection time also give us the opportunity to think independently.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Reflection in our school includes opportunities for individual reflection, where controlled breathing is used to calm and refresh thinking before next learning session.

Aims of Collective Worship

1. To provide the opportunity for pupils to reflect on universal, positive, human values which are of a broadly Christian nature or their own beliefs.
2. To reflect and strengthen the caring ethos of the school.
3. To provide a special time in the school day for children to develop a reflective approach to life.
4. To encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every pupil and every member of staff may feel involved.
5. To develop their respect for others' feelings and beliefs.
6. To develop the feeling of belonging to a community and a shared understanding.
7. To develop thinking about moral and spiritual issues and questions regarding equality, social justice, human rights and conflict.
8. To celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
9. To provide opportunities to undertake individual, quiet reflection, in line with Mind Up curriculum. These pauses enable pupils to calm their emotions and thoughts and be able to process new learning.

The Contribution of Reflection to aspects of the curriculum

Reflection time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in our school, reflection will feature in aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, reflection will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure reflection provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide a daily act of collective worship through a range of assemblies, where pupils are organised into different groupings, and opportunities for reflection in the classroom.

Maintained schools and academies without a religious designation – sometimes called non-faith schools – are required to provide collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, which means that it "reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination"¹.

At Fielding, we interpret 'broadly Christian' by:

- using the value of the month as a starting point
- creating an atmosphere in which every child feels secure in their own beliefs and has respect for the beliefs of others, whilst acknowledging the broadly Christian traditions of the country;

¹ [School Standards and Framework Act 1988, schedule 20](#)

- providing opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate festivals of major world religions;
- ensuring that topics are presented in relation to our values, from a moral or spiritual aspect and/or by making links to any religious beliefs (or spiritual aspect), exploring key concepts common to Christianity and other religions;
- considering pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of reflection will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. For whole-school reflection a termly overview is published highlighting the value of the month, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

Assemblies

Organisation

Assemblies can be led by any member of staff, visitor or pupils. Visitors may take an assembly from time to time or contribute to a special safeguarding assembly e.g. ChildLine or RNLI. As part of the assembly there may be stories, drama, singing, music, readings and times for quiet reflection. Songs sung maybe be of a religious or cultural nature, such as Christmas carols or a song learnt during music to reflect different themes and cultures.

Assembly will:

- aim to be inclusive of the beliefs (and respect that some pupils have no beliefs) of every child and adult;
- teach or reinforce the school's values;
- include a variety of elements at different times but maintain a standard format;
- involve the pupils;
- may include a song, story, pictorial images, video as a stimulus for thought and reflection.

Example of daily acts of collective worship

Day	Collective Worship /Person Leading	Location
Monday	Values/ Senior Leadership Children split into letter classes with a selection of children from Years 1-6 in each assembly.	Main Hall/ Sports Hall
Tuesday	Collective Worship / Class Teacher	Classroom
Wednesday	Music/ Singing/ Music Teacher Reward Assembly/ member of Year team	Sports Hall Main Hall
Thursday	Values/ Festivals/ teacher from Phase team	Main Hall
Friday	Collective Worship / Class Teacher	Classroom

On days when there are no assemblies it is the expectation that teachers make time to have a moment of Reflection at some point during the day.

Right of withdrawal

At Fielding Primary School all children are expected to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending an act of collective worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy every 3 years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Adopted: January 2019

Review Date: January 2022, March 2023