

Collective Worship Policy

Yew Tree Primary School



Date of Policy:	September 2024
Responsibility:	Jamie Barry – Head Teacher
Review Date:	September 2027
Consultation:	This policy was reviewed in consultation with staff and governors.

ETHOS STATEMENT

It is the aim of the Governing Body of Yew Tree Primary School to support the implementation of policies and procedures which develop the skills our children need to achieve our vision of:

“Learning without limits”

AIMS & PURPOSE

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship;
- 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. However, collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly unless they have been withdrawn (see section below).
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, we often base our assemblies on Christian values and traditions utilising awareness of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- While many acts of worship in our school are of a Christian character, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Weekly themes will be drawn up by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the RE & PSHE Leaders. The themes will be focussed around the major festivals of the main World faiths, core values, SUMO themes as well as any other important events which we feel need to be taken into consideration.
- The Head Teacher, alongside the Senior Leadership Team, will arrange the termly rota of those leading and supporting collective worship, indicating the theme for the week.
- We welcome and value the contribution of visitors to lead worship. Visitors will be informed of the suggested theme for the week they are to lead worship. They will receive this information in good time and are expected to share their intended content, in brief, with the relevant leader before the act of worship.
- Staff leading worship are expected to complete an assembly plan including an aim, introduction, activity or narrative, conclusion and reflection question for monitoring purposes. Staff must encourage children to answer the reflection question in the reflection folder.
- The weekly timetable for Collective Worship is as follows:

Monday: Worship is led by Head Teacher or SLT based on the theme of the week.

Tuesday: Singing assembly: Children from Y1 – Y2 and Y4 - Y6 will meet together on alternative weeks to practise a range of songs.

Wednesday: Y1 - Y3 will undertake an assembly based on a weekly theme and led by class teachers on a termly rota. There will also be opportunities for each class to lead an assembly each year on Wednesday afternoons.

Thursday: Y4 - Y6 will undertake an assembly based on a weekly theme and led by class teachers on a termly rota.

Friday: “Congratulations” Assembly - A celebration and offering of the week’s work for the whole school.

NB: On days where children do not attend the hall for an assembly, class teachers ensure there is an opportunity for worship and reflection in their classrooms.

- Parents/carers and other community members are invited to our Gold Book Assemblies which take place at the end of each term. They are also invited to visit us for class assemblies throughout the year. The assembly programme is drawn up by the Head Teacher.
- Opportunities are sought to ensure that all major faith celebrations and important World events are explored and/or celebrated.
- Collective worship is called ‘assembly’ at Yew Tree and is provided daily. Nursery children are provided for within their Nursery setting. Reception children attend an increasing number of assemblies during the year and hold a time for collective thought and worship in their classrooms on days when they do not attend with the rest of the school.

- 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 accordance with our displayed assembly manners. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and to participate in reflection moments and songs as appropriate. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

- We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent/carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents/carers 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.
- This policy is to be considered in line with our Public Sector Equality Duty (published separately). We will ensure that, at all times, we will seek to promote equal opportunities and good relations, avoiding discrimination against anyone in line with our school's equality 'Code of Conduct' and the Equality Act 2010.
- We respect each other's: age, disability, gender, gender identity, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy, race and nationality, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Appropriate action will be taken in cases of harassment and discrimination.

MONITORING & REVIEW

- It is the role of the Head Teacher and the school governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.