



**Lings Primary School**

# **Collective Worship Policy**

Date of Last Review: April 2018

Date of Next Review: April 2020

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## 1 Philosophy

Lings Primary School is a Community school. Assemblies and Collective Worship are therefore an important part of the School day as they give us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

At Lings Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship, which forms part of specific whole school assemblies, is an important opportunity to provide our students with Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

## 2 Aims

It is our aim at Lings Primary School that worship in general should:

- support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the SEAL programme.
- give expression to and reaffirm and practise the values of the School community.
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the School, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others,
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity experience stillness and quiet.
- provide members of the School community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

At Lings Primary School assemblies and Collective Worship contribute specifically to the spiritual moral, social and cultural development of pupils by providing opportunities:

### Spiritual

- reflect upon the value purpose and meaning of life and our experiences.
- experience times of quiet in the midst of the School day.
- experience material from religious and other sources which suggest that there is more to life than the immediate and material.

### Moral

- reflect on issues of right and wrong.
- hear about people and incidents in which goodness and "rightness" are exemplified.
- learn about religious and other teachings concerned with right and wrong.

### Social

- gather with others for a common purpose.
- share times of joy and sadness with others in the community.
- learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting.

### Cultural

- hear music from a range of cultures, times and places.
- reflect upon ideas concerning beauty and what is pleasing to the eye and ear.
- appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the School community and wider society.

### Intellectual

- think and expand their knowledge base and understanding.

- have ideas, beliefs, preconceptions and prejudices confirmed or challenged.
- reflect upon the nature of learning and the value of education.

#### 4 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 as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

We strive to provide students with variety in their experience of acts of worship which form part of a whole School assembly for all pupils of different age groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

We interpret two clauses of the 1988 Education Act in the following ways:

(a) "the requirement that over a term the majority of acts of worship must be of a 'broadly Christian character'"

- making reference to God or Jesus when appropriate (being sensitive to the school community).
- encouraging a positive and responsible attitude to the environment.
- encouraging a quest for personal honesty and integrity, truth and justice.
- encouraging pupils to look beyond the immediate and material to life's mysteries and consideration of them.
- encouraging love and respect for self and other people.  
encouraging service to others and the community.

- celebrating major Christian festivals as they occur and festivals and tradition of other religions.

b) "the requirement that acts of collective worship are appropriate for ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils at the School"

- Lings Primary School recognises the diverse nature of commitment of people in the School.
- recognising that there are many forms of religious commitment.
- choosing songs, prayers and readings carefully to ensure they are appropriate to the context of the school.
- regarding variety in religion, belief and culture as something to be acknowledged explored and celebrated.
- building festivals from a variety of religious and cultural traditions into the yearly programme.

The responsibility for arranging School worship in our school rests with the Head Teacher who after consultation with the Governing Body has appointed a member of staff with the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the School.

The Head Teacher and Governors, on advice from the Worship co-ordinator, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the School from a particular non-Christian faith background.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On occasions the Act of Worship may proceed or follow an assembly rather than being encompassed in it. The transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the OHP, moment of silence and reflection etc.

## 4 Rights of Withdrawal

At Lings Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head Teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The School has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the Head Teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Head Teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Lings Primary School.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to an assembly of students before or after an Act of Worship.

## 5 Organisation

We aim to organise our assemblies and Worship according to the following:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Person Leading</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>
Monday	Head/Visitor/Visitor	Whole School
Tuesday	Class Teacher/Phase leader	Whole School
Wednesday	Worship through HT or invited Guest	Whole School
Thursday	Class Teacher/Phase leader	Whole School
Friday, 2.30pm	Celebration of Work (parents invited)	Whole School

## 6 Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week/month/term there is a theme for Collective Worship/based on SEAL/Values for Life/12 Baskets/etc. These are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Each person leading worship is asked to plan his or her act of worship in as much detail as they would any learning activity. A worship-planning group meets twice a year led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last half years Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next half year.

One of the Schools Governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship at the School.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The School's

Council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the School's Council.

## **7 Resources**

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator.

The school has a budget to develop these resources.

### **Confirmatory Signatures**

Signed.....**Head Teacher**

Signed.....**Governor**

Approved on.....

To be reviewed on.....