



**MURRAY PARK SCHOOL
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Title of Policy	Collective Worship
Date of adoption	December 2023
Originator	Head of Religious Studies, Personal Development and Citizenship
Date of review	December 2024
Additional information	

Collective Worship Policy Murray Park School

The Collective Worship Policy of Murray Park School is consistent with the mission statement of the curriculum rationale of the school.

Definition of Collective Worship

'Collective Worship' is the type of worship that may take place in a school since it is appropriate to a 'collection' of people possessing a diversity of religions, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and views because it does not pre-suppose a particular religious commitment.' Bishop of London, 1989

"It is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of certain realities and values held to be of central importance to the community. It aims to foster the spiritual, moral and cultural development of those present by giving each person the opportunity to make a free response depending on their own religious or other commitment."

"School Collective Worship should provide experiences within which a pupil's spiritual development may flourish. It is an opportunity where individuals can appreciate being part of a larger group, where sharing of whatever is 'of worth' can take place (Guidelines for 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 worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Murray Park School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit
- reflect on recent events that have taken place locally or nationally

For the Pupils

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Murray Park School, Collective Worship will at times focus on aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship 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 Collective Worship 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.

Organisation

The Education Report Act states that Collective Worship may take place in 'school groups'. Due to the limitations of space, our students gather for Collective Worship and Reflection in year groups. Our year groups assemble for 15-20 minutes, once a week; during the four remaining morning periods, students undertake the year team programme for each specific year group. The assembly programme will augment and enhance the tutor time programme and allow students to reflect more fully on the issues discussed.

Guideline

It is important to create the right atmosphere in the assembly hall and in tutor rooms. The Collective Act of Worship may only take a few minutes but it must be set aside from registers and notices.

Pupils should be encouraged to engage with and reflect quietly on what they have heard as taking part involves more than passive attendance. An act of collective worship should result in responses from pupils.

The collective worship should use carefully chosen language which is sensitive to the variety of beliefs present in the school, enabling all who are present to play a meaningful part in it without their own beliefs being compromised.