



LAURUS
GRACE

Collective Worship

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Next Review: September 2028

The collective worship policy at the Laurus Grace pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the local authority. Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Aims of collective worship

Collective worship aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together e.g., festivals, school values, individual achievements
- build a sense of community/foster corporate identity
- develop a reflective approach to living which sometimes encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable
- worship God or reflect on human values
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

Statutory requirements

By law, Collective Worship must

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents every day
- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils
- take place on the school premises, except on occasions, with agreement of governors

Therefore, our collective worship reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Not every act of collective worship must comply with this; just the majority so we can include material from other religions and non-religious world views.

Collective Worship and the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education.

We aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. To achieve this, it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Head of School is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

1. Head of Pastoral Care/Assistant Head of School draws up a rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week.
2. Head of Pastoral Care/Assistant Head of School observes at least 6 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per term to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.
3. Teacher, pupil and, where appropriate, parental views are collected annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Due to the specific special educational needs of our students', collective worship will take place in smaller groups, usually within student's classrooms and delivered by pastoral or teaching staff. Larger group collective worship will take place online via Teams into classrooms.

Acts of worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Leadership

Every member of the school staff, pupils and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils, as well as the balance between Christianity and other faiths.

Yearly planning results in themes, special occasions and events, but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

Visitors are welcomed to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to

increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our acts of collective worship. Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the students.

Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus as this is inclusive of the beliefs of our non-Christian religious pupils. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Head of School in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible.

Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff; parents may provide suitable activities for children so withdrawn.

EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT

<p>Names and titles of people involved with this assessment</p> <p>Title of Policy –Collective Worship</p>	<p>Rachel Robinson</p> <p>Assistant Trust Director of Inclusion</p>														
<p>Impact assessment carried out with regard to identified characteristics</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Race</td> <td style="text-align: right;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disability</td> <td style="text-align: right;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sex</td> <td style="text-align: right;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age</td> <td style="text-align: right;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religious belief</td> <td style="text-align: right;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sexual orientation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender Reassignment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">✓</td> </tr> </table>	Race	✓	Disability	✓	Sex	✓	Age	✓	Religious belief	✓	Sexual orientation	✓	Gender Reassignment	✓
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Sex	✓														
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Gender Reassignment	✓														
<p>Summary of any issues/proposed changes</p>	<p>Minor language changes on page 2 highlighted in yellow to make it clear how we have adapted trust approaches to our specialist setting</p>														
<p>Date</p>	<p>12th September 2025</p>														
<p>Date of next review</p>	<p>September 2028</p>														