



Collective Worship Policy

Governors Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Drake', is positioned above the date.

Jan 2023

Review date: January 2026

Overview

It is a legal requirement that every school provides its pupils with an act of collective worship each day. At Causeway Green we do this as part of our daily assembly, which is attended by all pupils.

The assembly is conducted by staff on a rota, using the yearly SEMH plan produced at the start of each academic year.

Attendance and withdrawal

Although provision of collective worship is a legal requirement, attendance of all pupils is not compulsory. It is the right of the parents/guardians of pupils to withdraw them from collective worship. Teaching staff and pupils themselves do not have this right.

To withdraw their child from participation in acts of collective worship, parents/guardians must give written notification of their decision to the Headteacher. As this is a parental decision under law, the notification need not give a reason; it must however clearly state the name of the child(ren) and that the parents wish him/her/them to not participate in collective worship. If the initial written notification is unclear the Headteacher should help parents redraft it.

The Headteacher, upon receiving a notification, should seek to contact the parents/guardians and discuss the matter with them. She should not seek to dissuade them, but should point out that by missing out on collective worship their child will be differentiating themselves from the rest of the school, and may feel excluded. The Headteacher should ensure that parents/guardians are aware of the consequences of withdrawal from collective worship, but in all cases parental judgement is final.

Any parent/guardian can readmit their child to collective worship simply by putting the request in writing. Upon receipt, the child should be immediately allowed to participate in collective worship.

A register of all children withdrawn from collective worship must be kept by the Headteacher, who should immediately add or subtract names from it as appropriate.

Children who have been withdrawn from collective worship may still attend assembly for announcements, non-religious guest speakers and other such activities. They must not remain in the hall during any acts of worship; class teachers must be aware of this and ensure any withdrawn children leave the assembly before such activities commence. If withdrawal from assembly is likely to cause disruption, then withdrawn children need not attend.

Withdrawn children should be supervised in a classroom, with suitable activities (preferably set by the class teacher) during collective worship. Any messages passed on to the assembled body of pupils during assembly must also be announced to withdrawn children if they have not attended assembly.

Content and delivery

Our collective worship is based round a broadly Christian theme, shaped especially by the major Christian festivals (Christmas and Easter) which occur at the end of the first two terms of the school year. However, we do not have an exclusive religious identity to our collective worship, and also cover major festivals of other faiths, both those represented within our school community and those not. We welcome guest speakers from different faiths and denominations, and although generally prayers and songs are of a Christian nature, we are happy to adapt material from other religions equally.

At no point in any assembly should it be implied that any one religion is more correct than others. Issues such as exclusivity and relations between religions may be dealt with by the member of staff conducting the assembly, but are best discussed in a classroom environment. The act of collective worship is designed to bring the school community together in thanks; the broadly Christian ethos reflects the country as a whole and not any claims of its correctness.

Each assembly is conducted by one member of staff, on a rota basis set out at the beginning of the year. Some assemblies will involve predetermined material, such as those relating to festivals such as Christmas or Eid al-Fit; the majority however should include the act of worship (prayers and songs, with sometimes elucidation of religious importance of texts or actions) along with the content determined by the member of staff conducting the assembly.

The assembly year planner shall be established by the Senior Management Team in advance of the beginning of the school year, and circulated to all staff conducting assemblies to give them plentiful time (preferably over a month before their first assembly) to plan and prepare.

Monitoring

All staff have a responsibility to ensure children attend collective worship unless withdrawn by their parents, and to deliver any assemblies they conduct according to this policy.

The Headteacher at Causeway Green is responsible for ensuring that the rota for assemblies is in place each year, and ensuring that staff maintain this rota (allowing for swapping assemblies and providing cover during illnesses etc). The Headteacher also has operational responsibility for ensuring that collective worship is delivered as required by legislation.

The Governing Body, as the legal representative of the school, should ensure that assemblies meet legal requirements involving collective worship, as set out in this policy. This may involve representatives attending assemblies, and will certainly involve reviewing the list of withdrawn pupils, the assembly rota and the Headteacher's monitoring of delivery of collective worship.