



Straits Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the headteacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Our guidelines for collective worship are taken from the 1988 Education Act and Circular 1/94 which state that:

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day;
- the act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings;
- it may happen at any time of the school day;
- it has to take place on school premises (In an aided school the governors can make arrangements for worship elsewhere on special occasions e.g. the local church. In a controlled school acts of worship may take place off school premises but these should be in addition to the statutory acts of collective worship on the premises);
- the headteacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for collective worship are met;
- all staff, including the headteacher have the legal right to withdraw from the act of collective worship. The headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship;
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount;

Our Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are to offer pupils the opportunity to:

- Explore and share beliefs and values; including both our Pathway to the Future and British Values;
- Re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school;
- Think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community;
- Reflect on the beliefs and celebrations of other faiths in our community;
- Appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them;
- Consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence;
- Consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives;
- Support the delivery of our PSHE curriculum;
- Celebrate the various achievements of members of the community;
- Understand how to keep themselves and others safe;
- Participate in activities which develop their cultural capital;

'Worship' at Straits is taken to have its natural and ordinary meaning and it must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities. We understand collective worship involves members of the school coming together.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and Circular 1/94 *"It is open to a school to have acts of worship that are wholly of a broadly Christian character, acts of worship that are broadly in the tradition of another religion, and acts of worship which contain elements drawn from a number of different faiths. Section 7(3) of the Act qualifies section 7(1) by providing that within each school term the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, but it is not necessary for every act of worship to be so (see also paragraph 124)."*

We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions and celebrations that are represented in the school and the wider community.

We aim to acknowledge and talk about major festivals (including other world faiths) and events as part of this programme. We also endeavour to draw on a wide range of source material from multicultural sources when planning assembly content.

Organisation of collective worship

Collective worship is organised into three groupings. Our EYFS pupils complete their daily worship within their own classrooms, whilst our older pupils are organised into two groupings (Years 1, 2 and 3 and Years 4, 5 and 6) and complete most of their daily act of worship in the hall.

Assemblies are led by either the headteacher or deputy on alternative weekly basis. The school also holds weekly 'Praise Assemblies' in which pupils' achievements (academically, behaviourally, socially) are celebrated and rewarded. Each class selects a pupil who is recognised for their achievements and parents are invited into school as part of this celebration.

- **Monday:** collective worship led by the headteacher or deputy head.
- **Tuesday:** collective worship led by the headteacher or deputy head.
- **Wednesday:** collective worship led by a visiting speaker.
- **Thursday:** Rec - 2 Praise Assembly
- **Friday:** Years 3 - 6 Praise Assembly

We regard collective worship as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet, respectful and thoughtful, when appropriate, and to listen carefully to the message of focus of the assembly. We create an atmosphere by using music and/or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Visitors from a range of backgrounds are invited to participate in our program for collective worship. Visitors can include representatives from local churches (such as Open the Book, Paul Willmott, Rev Steve Carpenter or David and Lyndsey Brown) or other places of worship and representatives from charitable organisations. In addition, we may visit local churches (e.g. Himley Road Methodist Church) as part of major Christian festivals.

Staff are actively encouraged to make use of a wide range of resources in order to fully engage the children; these may include religious artefacts, mystery objects, video clips, radio broadcasts or pupil involvement. We also make use of some assembly ideas from a range of produced materials as well as on-line assemblies from the internet.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent 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 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 headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Equal opportunities

The staff and governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their gender, ethnicity or academic or physical ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests and reflect the multicultural society we live in.

Monitoring and review

The Curriculum Committee takes a supervisory role for collective worship and will ensure that this policy and its procedures are being applied and are impacting on pupil outcomes, understanding, well-being and the development of the school's ethos.

Signed by:

Chair of Curriculum Committee: Date:

Head teacher: Date:

Agreed at the Curriculum Committee Meeting on: