



Collective Worship and Assemblies Policy

Reviewed: May 2023

Next review: May 2025

May 2023	Policy reviewed and updated	Steph Watson, Acting Principal
June 2021	Covid-secure measures referred to Name changed to Collective Worship and Assemblies Policy	James Bancroft, Principal
October 2017	Policy written	James Bancroft, Principal

This policy was reviewed at the Local Advisory Board Meeting in Summer 1 2023



Collective Worship and Assemblies Policy

Wistaston Church Lane Academy believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring, inclusive ethos and our belief in helping children feel happy, safe and part of a community are all reflected in our worship. We use this time to nurture the social, moral, spiritual and cultural growth of our children and to focus on our values of creativity, community, self-awareness and challenge.

We value this time in the school day for the space it gives to children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditional religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that the school provides a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The regulations are set out in the Education Act 1944 as amended by the Education Reform Act 1988. Collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that some of our pupils are practising members of other faiths we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths. We are sensitive to the religious and moral views of others.

Practice

At Wistaston Church Lane Academy, we combine our collective worship with assemblies and 'Thought for the Day' activities, helping to ensure that collective worship takes place within a broad educational framework. Assemblies are held most days, with each year group attending. Thought for the Day activities take place in classrooms on days that children do not attend an assembly. This ensures that every child takes an active part in collective worship and the needs of all are met.

Assembly Structure

Teachers and anyone delivering an assembly are free to deliver their assembly in their own style, but most assemblies will have the following features:

- A good morning introduction
- Notices given by teachers and members of staff
- A message, thought or celebration

Assembly themes are organised by Key Stage Leads.

Who leads assemblies?

Members of the School Leadership Team lead assemblies regularly and teachers lead assemblies on a rota (organised by Key Stage Leads). Other members of staff are welcome to lead assemblies. Sometimes visitors and children in school lead assemblies and collective worship.

Organisation of Assemblies

The logistics of organising a whole school assembly are complicated and so we only do this once a half-term.

Assemblies with collective worship usually take place for all children in the infants or the juniors. Occasionally pupils in either building attend the opposite assembly.

Assemblies take place on four days out of five, usually lasting no longer than 20 minutes with the Celebration Assembly taking longer.

Celebration Assemblies

We have a weekly celebration assembly. Any presentations are usually saved for this assembly. During the Celebration Assembly certificates are awarded to children in each class, attendance scores are announced, house point totals are celebrated and birthdays are shared. All staff members attend the Celebration Assembly.



Themes

A new rota of assemblies is devised each half-term by Key Stage Leads to ensure a broad range of areas to be studied. During the year, the assembly themes are linked to the various topics, including national and international events, school values as well as links to the No Outsiders curriculum and the Rights Respecting Schools initiative. Class Teachers may follow up the theme from the assemblies with a discussion in class.

Music Assemblies

This is an opportunity to promote Music and a love of singing in particular. These assemblies will feature a piece of music for the children to listen to and a moment of reflection.

These assemblies are an opportunity to practise seasonal songs and to practice particular assembly songs.

Special Visitors

The school invites many special visitors to its assemblies, with the rector of St. Mary's Church attending each half-term. We welcome charity representatives when we are fundraising. We also welcome members of the local community, including historians, police officers and others.

Resources

Assembly books and certificates are kept centrally in the Staff Room.

Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

We aim to be as inclusive as possible. We welcome other visitors into the school to help broaden the children's experiences. Every effort is made to involve the children, where appropriate. All staff are made aware of all children in the school with Special Educational Needs and take this into account when planning assemblies.

Right to Withdraw

Parents can request for their child to be withdrawn from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child for that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. Staff members cannot be required to lead or attend collective worship but do not have a right to withdraw from the non-worship part of assembly.