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# Collective Worship Policy

March 2025

*Version: 2.2*

*Approved: 7.03.25*

*Next Review Date: March 2027*

## **1 Collective Worship Policy**

- 1.1 It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.
- 1.2 Families who send their children to Sonning Common Primary School are in the main ‘nominally’ Christian, and we have some children from practising Christian families. In addition, there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.
- 1.3 The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Parents of a pupil have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from worship.

## **2 Values and Aims**

- 2.1 We believe at Sonning Common Primary School that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our Values-led and caring ethos, and the importance we place on the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of the whole child, is reflected in our assemblies. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in an appropriate manner.
- 2.2 Worship at this school encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. We use this time to encourage pupils to show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community and for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world. In Assemblies, we celebrate special occasions and the achievements of pupils and staff together. In particular, worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

## **3 Assemblies**

- 3.1 At Sonning Common Primary School we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework.

3.2 We run assemblies at the following times:

- *The whole school meets together on Monday and Friday, led by the Headteacher.*
- *Morning assemblies are held on Tuesday for Key Stage 1 and Wednesday for Key stage 2 and led by a class teacher or senior leader.*
- *KS2 & KS1 gather in their respective classes or year groups to focus on school values or PSHCE, when it is not their assembly.*

3.3 We welcome visitors from a range of religious, social, musical and cultural backgrounds; to help make our assemblies forward-thinking, motivational and inspirational.

3.4 The school follows the KAPOW PSHCE framework and assembly themes relate to these and the school values. The planning for assemblies also encompasses religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar. Staff leading worship can then plan around the themes and a development of ideas can build up. Songs are included to celebrate these festivals or to focus on key events and inspirational people from past and present.

## **4 Staff Training**

4.1 Staff will be encouraged to attend courses and review resources. The Collective Worship Subject Leader will have access to specific training to support and develop their role.

## **5 Dissemination**

5.1 The Policy is available on the school web site and a paper copy available on request from the school office.

## **6 Reviewing the Policy**

6.1 This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the Religious Education Subject Leader and monitored by the Link Governor to ensure that the Policy is relevant and up to date.