



# Colby School

## Collective Worship Policy

Last Review: April 2024

Next Review: April 2026



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

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### **BACKGROUND TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT COLBY SCHOOL.**

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”.

Families who send their children to Colby School are in the main ‘nominally’ Christian, some children are 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 children. The faith or non-religious background of staff, children and families is respected at all times.

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 have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending Collective Worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the headteacher. Teachers may also withdraw from Collective Worship.

### **SOME DEFINITIONS.**

#### **Collective Worship.**

Worship from within a faith tradition has a very specific definition. A school community is not a worshipping community and the law recognises this by requiring “collective” not “corporate” worship.

At Colby School, Collective Worship is based on our school motto “Treat others as you wish to be treated” and our school ethos “Everyone Learns, Everyone Leads, Everyone Matters.” Collective Worship includes opportunities to celebrate achievements and consider how we can have a better world, a better school and be better people.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way Collective Worship is inclusive not exclusive.

## **Worship of a broadly Christian character.**

The majority of acts of worship must be of a “broadly Christian character”, and those that are must reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominational. Paragraphs 60-63 of the DFE Circular 1/94 asks schools to define this as according a special status to Jesus Christ. If we are to be inclusive in our worship in this school, taking the family backgrounds of the children into consideration, then, when according a special status to Jesus Christ, all pupils, whatever their beliefs, need to be respected. It is therefore appropriate in this school to tell stories of the life of Jesus, but inappropriate for all children to be required to address Him in prayer. There may be some occasions when children participate in prayer, for example at Harvest Festival and Christian Services such as Easter and Christmas.

Many of the characteristics of Christianity are shared by all the faiths. It is important to concentrate on these as well as those specific to Christianity.

## **VALUES AND AIMS.**

At Colby School, we believe that Collective Worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life.

Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. 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 any appropriate manner.

Through our Collective Worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings.
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.
- Respond freely to religious and / or spiritual stimulus.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not.

Collective Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular, Collective Worship at Colby School develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

## **OBJECTIVES**

We see Collective Worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community.
- Celebrate special occasions together.
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world.
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.

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## **PLANNING**

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of Collective Worship. Therefore, the time is not over-dominated by school administration or moralising. We plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection.

### **We choose from a range of methods, including:**

- Celebration Assembly.
- Visits from the "Open the Book" team, sharing Bible stories.
- School Council Meetings.
- House Meetings.
- Eco Meetings.
- Circle Time sessions.
- Life Skills lessons.
- Formulating and reviewing class / school rules.
- Tiny Teacher sessions.
- Reviewing and reflecting after community involvement ie. visiting.
- Visits Residential Care Homes for the Elderly.
- Pupil contributions.
- Singing for enjoyment.
- Singing to entertain.
- Sacred and secular stories / readings.
- Reflection.
- Artefacts / natural materials.
- Visual aids / focal points – class talks.
- Dialogue / creative silence.
- Celebration of achievement.

## **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

At Colby School, we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils.
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community.

- Positive response to shared experience.
- An atmosphere which matches the theme.
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well-being.
- A sense of occasion.
- Good order.
- Staff affirmation.
- A sense of challenge.
- A place in the overall plan of the school.
- Enrichment of pupil experience.

## **PROMOTING FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES.**

The Collective Worship Policy should be read alongside the Department for Education document “Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools – November 2014.”

Collective Worship is used to promote British Values and Global Values.

### **Democracy:**

#### **Children develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process.**

All children participate in a fully democratic election to elect the Executive of the School Council. Year 6 children have the opportunity to apply for the Executive positions and then run an organised campaign, including promotional adverts and Hustings. Children are taught how to use a ballot slip (including Reception children) and come to the Polling Station to vote on Election Day. Children understand the importance of voting for the best person for the job.

Voting is commonly used in class, House or School Council meetings to make decisions. Children understand they have a right to voice their opinion, within a culture of mutual respect.

The School Council has strong links with the Friends of Colby School and the Governing Body. They have attended Parish Council meetings and met with local politicians.

### **Living under the rule of law:**

#### **Children develop an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety.**

Colby School has links with local Police. Visitors are invited to Colby School to share their expertise and to promote respect for support services.

Children are involved in writing and reviewing our Positive Behaviour Policy.

Children take responsibility for promoting outstanding behaviour and have high expectations

Children devise class rules and discuss whole school behaviour at School Council and House Meetings.

Children take responsibility for taking care of others' well-being through initiatives such as Pupil Leader for Pupil Wellbeing.

Children have regular opportunities to reflect regarding behaviour during whole school assemblies and class assemblies / circle times etc.

Children complete questionnaires regarding behaviour and safeguarding.

Children participate enthusiastically and confidently in Road Safety activities offered by the local authority.

Key Stage 2 lead an annual Remembrance Service which is attended by the Royal British Legion, members of the local community and families. Children in community groups such as Scouts, Guides etc. wear their uniforms for this service.

#### **Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs:**

**Children develop an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.**

Our R.E, Life Skills and Geography curriculum provides a broad and balanced education about a range of faiths, religions and cultures.

Staff take opportunities to share experiences of other religions and cultures (such as sharing travel experiences) and ensure children know that other parts of the country are more diverse.

Staff research appropriate materials to share with children to show our diverse country – for example, DVD clips of British children from a range of cultural or religious backgrounds.

Newsletters and photos from Colombia (and other countries we have links with) lead to discussions about the similarities and differences between our schools and lives.

Children enjoy cultural theme days / weeks, eg. Diwali, Chinese New Year, Saint George's Day, Easter and Christmas.

Key Stage 1 children lead Harvest Festival assemblies, including donating food to Cromer Food Bank.

Children regularly raise money to support charities.

## **Identifying and combatting discrimination / Mutual Respect:**

### **Children develop an understanding of identifying and combatting discrimination.**

Colby School has a strong ethos of mutual respect and we live by our motto "Treat others as you wish to be treated".

Children do not tolerate discrimination of any form and are quick to report rare incidents of inappropriate behaviour.

Older children are familiar with the law regarding Anti-Racism and know that racist behaviour is not tolerated at Colby School.

### **Personal Responsibility and Liberty:**

"Treat others as you wish to be treated."

"Everyone Learns, Everyone Leads, Everyone Matters."

Next review April 2026.

Christine Mead

