

# Collective Worship Policy

## Campton Academy



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| Approved by:        | Sarah Fraher |
| Signed:             |              |
| Date approved:      | July 2024    |
| Next review due by: | July 2027    |

## **Introduction**

At Campton Academy, we believe that Collective Worship provides a valuable focus for the school community and helps reflect the tone and ethos of the school.

## **Background to Collective Worship at our School**

Families who send their children to our school are in the main Christian. In addition, there are a small number of children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from nonreligious backgrounds.

We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that they come from. It is 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. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

## **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils are given the choice of sitting quietly / engaging in self-reflection during times of worship.

## **Legal Requirements**

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day (The Education Reform Act 1988.) 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.

The Principal 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child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head Teacher. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship

## **Aims**

We believe at this school 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 upon 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 traditionally religious ways or any other 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 every-day 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
  - Provide time for quiet reflection

### **Objectives**

We see school worship as an educational opportunity to encourage pupils to:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to engage in an act of worship
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions and achievements together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes and standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life e.g., the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to other people and to God.

### **Planning and organisation**

In our school, we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. The whole school meets together, four days a week. On one day a week teachers give opportunities for worshipful time in the classroom.

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. We plan the time so that there is a variety in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

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

- Pupil's contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Mindfulness practises
- Prayer/reflection/meditation/songs/hymns/music
- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

### **Music**

We consider songs and music to be very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and believe that it unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of songs and music from which to draw, taken from a variety of cultures and types. We select our songs and music carefully to match the theme.

There is a weekly singing practice. During this, we take time to consider carefully the words of one of the songs and make this into a worshipful experience by reflecting on and responding to the song.

### **Visitors**

We enjoy the fresh approach, which visitors can bring to our school worship. We have made links with some people from the community who visit us occasionally to lead worship. We also attend our local church for Harvest Festival, Christmas Carols and to celebrate other significant events.

### **Success Criteria**

At this 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