



Eling Infant School And Nursery



Collective Worship Policy 2025

Collective worship in schools aims to provide the opportunity for pupils to have time for quiet reflection, to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues; to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship offered or through personal reflections; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

What is 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 children of different faiths and attitudes an opportunity to come together through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The Role of Collective Worship

Whilst there are no legal requirements for school to hold 'assemblies', the law states clearly that all children (see right of Withdrawal for exceptions) are required to participate in a daily act of collective worship. The legal requirements allow for a certain degree of flexibility with regard to the nature of 'worship' and this document will define Eling Infant School and Nursery's interpretation of those requirements.

Collective Worship at Eling Infant School and Nursery

We have chosen to interpret the concept of 'worship' as providing an invaluable opportunity for the school community to focus on and reaffirm those values that are considered to be of supreme worth and importance. Values that are regularly re-visited as themes for collective worship include: love, trust, friendship, respect, responsibility, equality, forgiveness, kindness and tolerance.

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Eling Infant School and Nursery and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the child as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Develop an understanding of British values
- Explore their own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality

- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate, respond and reflect

Collective Worship themes are planned in the school year to acknowledge the significance of key religious festivals from the main religions represented in the school. In line with legislation that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we place particular emphasis on the Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Whatever festival, Christian or otherwise, our concern is to explore the reason for celebration. Pupils are not themselves required to 'celebrate' religious beliefs which neither they nor their family adhere to.

At Eling Infant School and Nursery, we believe that collective worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by addressing a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'repond' at their own level. Collective worship makes a vital contribution to the development of pupils in the following areas:

1. Collective worship contributes to the **spiritual** development of children by providing them with the opportunity to:
 - Reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of events, acts, objects and persons
 - Reflect on the beliefs, views and customs of different faiths
 - Reflecting on the character and achievements of Jesus and Christian leaders
2. Collective worship contributes to the **moral** development of pupils by providing them with the opportunity to:
 - Reflect on matters concerning right and wrong
 - Develop an understanding of British values and their responsibility to uphold these as British citizens
 - Hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness and right are exemplified
 - Learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong
3. Collective worship contributes to the **social** development of children by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - Gather with others for a common purpose
 - Share times of joy and sadness with others
 - Learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting
 - Increase self-confidence in public speaking/ dramatic performance
4. Collective worship contributes to the **cultural** development of children by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - Hear and respond to music from a range of times, places and cultures
 - Deepen their understanding of the school and societies ethos
 - Appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond
5. Collective worship contributes to the **intellectual** development of children by providing them with an opportunity to:
 - Learn and engage with their minds
 - Have ideas concerning values confirmed and /or challenged
 - Reflect on the importance of learning in the context of our school community
 - Consider the power of words

The contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Eling Infant School and Nursery, Collective Worship will at times feature in aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of children by reflecting on the work done in class time. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives (Philosophy for Children and My Happy Mind).

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place in the school hall. The whole school comes together every day for an assembly and it is led by a member of the school or one of our regular visitors from the local churches. Collective Worship is facilitated every day either as a whole school, or as a class. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. Collective worship in the classroom is supported by the weekly set themes with quotes, poems, questions or artefacts for the children to consider.

Principles and Practices for Assemblies

1. Good timing is essential. The entire assembly (unless it is a special event) is normally 20 minutes long. This will include the reflective moment. The assembly time is usually in the afternoon at either 1pm or 2.30pm. The class teachers should lead their class into the hall as quietly and calmly as possible. Children are led into an experience of quietness to counterbalance the busy activity which generally marks the rest of the school day.
2. The focal point of the assembly can take the form of a focused silence, a reading, a piece of music, a picture or anything that informs further of the theme. Such quiet times will often lend themselves to the nurturing of a sense of awe and wonder, especially with regard to the natural world.
3. There should be no attempt to elicit acts of assent or corporate public response such as Amen. Responses are private, conditional and may be reflective in nature. It is important not to put pressure on the children to pray especially in a manner that would go against their own belief system.
 - There is time for general reflection and silent thought on the theme of the worship. When this occurs, in order to fulfil the law, it might be useful to say. 'If it is your custom, you might like to offer a silent prayer to God about...' or as is more commonly used an invitation to bow your head is offered.
4. High expectations of behaviour are maintained throughout the assembly. Class teachers bring their class into the hall promptly and in an orderly fashion, having entered the hall quietly and calmly. It is the schools expectation that children will sit quietly and wait for the assembly to begin, listening to the music being played. This moment of quiet is important to set the tone for collective worship.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship at Eling Infant School and Nursery. However, it will be made clear to them the ages of the children and the guidelines for how they treat prayer. If possible a copy of the collective worship policy will be sent out to them in advance. We have an established relationship with the local churches and have visits from a

member of them at least termly. They are kept informed of the theme and expectations for the assemblies they attend and contribute to.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents/ carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from parts or all collective worship. Children who are withdrawn are suitably occupied and supervised. Teachers can also exercise their right to withdraw from leading or attending acts of collective worship, but attending 'assemblies' is part of a teachers contractual duty. At Eling we believe that our approach to collective worship is educationally sound and crucial to the spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development of our children. We take pleasure in the fact that all children attend and that it is a time when we can share important lessons as a whole school community.

Monitoring

Monitoring will be undertaken by both the Headteacher and the RE coordinator, who will ensure resources are maintained and that delivery of collective worship is of a high quality.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed biennial or in accordance with any statutory guidelines.

Linked Policies:

- Curriculum Policy
- RSE Policy
- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy
- Single Equality Statement and Action Plan
- SMSC policy

Equal Opportunities

All children, irrespective of religious background, race, gender, social status or ability will be given equal opportunities to access this area of the curriculum.

Date of Review: November 2028

