

Leechpool Primary
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



1. This policy is intended to ensure consistency across the school in terms of Collective Worship, which is a statutory obligation.

Intent: The importance of Collective Worship

At Leechpool we use our collective worship time as an opportunity to enhance the spiritual and moral development of our pupils and to promote a positive ethos both within our school community and beyond.

Collective worship should enhance our children's learning by allowing them to take part in a shared experience, usually in the form of assemblies, where they can develop an appreciation that goes beyond the material world, fostering a concern for others and providing a forum for shared values. It should provide a period of quiet, with space to reflect on aspects of both their own lives and those of the community around them.

It is important that pupils become familiar with the language, silence and expectations common to many forms of public worship, as it is likely that at some point in their lives they will need to attend special rites of passage; weddings, funerals and baptisms for example.

2. Implementation: Agreed Procedure

- Leechpool School provides opportunities for collective worship to take place on a daily basis, usually within assemblies (either whole school or key stage based) but sometimes in the classroom, when either the school hall or members of staff are unavailable or the session is timetabled for the class.
- The leading of collective worship is shared between staff on a rota basis. Visiting speakers from the local community are invited to lead too. Songs and hymns are usually practised weekly. Friday's assemblies are normally a celebration of the children's achievements as part of the act of collective worship.
- Collective worship should in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities, providing opportunities for our pupils to reflect meaningfully on life. We understand that many of our children will respond to worship in different ways but all children will be given the opportunity to participate.
- Over the course of a year collective worship is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'* It will not be distinctive of any particular denomination but will help pupils to explore Christian beliefs and traditions.
- Teachers follow the termly assembly themes which are based on the P.S.H..E. curriculum and festivals of the major world religions. These are filed in the Assembly Folder on the school server.
- Staff leading assemblies record content and resources on the school server in the assembly file. When collective worship takes place within the classroom it

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is the responsibility of the class teacher to select content and delivery. All teachers have a list of appropriate websites for use with smartboards.

- A wide variety of resources are available for the delivery of collective worship in order to make assemblies interesting and relevant to the pupils. There are a wide variety of books, posters and artefacts stored in clearly labelled cupboards outside the library.
- There is provision for parents to remove their children from collective worship. ** If a parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship, then the school must comply. Parents are not obliged to state their reasons. (Further details are available in 'Collective Worship in Schools', Guidance for West Sussex Community Schools, 2021.)

3. Impact: Is this working?

- Do children enjoy collective worship and assemblies at Leechpool?
- Is collective worship of a mainly Christian basis but with reference to important holy days and festivals of other main world religions?
- Are the children having the opportunity to experience periods of quiet reflection and prayer on a daily basis?
- Do children enjoy a variety of speakers and staff leading assemblies and collective worship?
- Do the staff feel supported by the subject leaders and confident about the delivery of collective worship?
- Do the staff who lead collective worship record what they have covered on the assembly record on the server?
- As a staff, do we exploit all opportunities for cross-curricular links in our assemblies and collective worship?

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Subject Leaders for RE and Pshe.

** School standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 71)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>