



## Pencoys Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Date Agreed: October 2024	Chair of Governors: Mrs C Sommerville	Headteacher: Mrs C Bonds
Date for Review: Jan 2026	Reviewed by: Cathy Bonds	

The Collective Worship Policy at Pencoys Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LEA through its SACRE.

### **Legal Requirements**

(For details see School Standard and Framework Act 1998 and Circular 1/94)

- All pupils must take part in a daily act of collective worship, unless they have been withdrawn from it by their parents.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
- As Pencoys Primary School is a part of Crofty Multi-Academy Trust, collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', that is be within the broad traditions of Christian beliefs, on the majority of occasions.
- Collective worship must be non-denominational.

### **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.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

#### **For the School:**

Collective Worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and contributes significantly to the ethos of Pencoys Primary School. Worship is understood as an act of collective worship in a county school and can be interpreted very openly and widely as an act which brings a school group to a point where they are able to make a shared, reflective response to a divine being, power, ideal or value of some worth, wholly or mainly within the broad traditions of Christian belief on the majority of occasions. Collective worship is an essential element in Pencoys Primary School's promotion of the spiritual and moral development of pupils as required by ERA 1988. During Collective Worship times it is our aim that the school community can provide opportunities for pupils:

#### **Aims of Collective Worship**

Aims have been agreed with the governors to be the following:

- To establish, affirm and celebrate the common and shared values of the school.
- To nurture the identity and nature of the school as a community.
- To develop positive attitudes among the pupils.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- To enable pupils to come to terms with their own beliefs, values and commitments, and with those of others.
- In short to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments of pupils.

### **Approaches**

Daily worship is provided through the following means:

- Whole school acts of worship in assembly.
- Acts of worship within a class

### **For the Pupils:**

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

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- to be able to see their lives as part of the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

### **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Pencoys Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

Responsibility for collective worship in Pencoys Primary School lies with the head teacher and deputy headteacher. Their task is to:

- To provide a rota of leaders of worship.
- To provide a sequence of themes for each term. .
- To liaise with the local community in terms of visitors etc.

### **Methods:**

There should be a suitable variety of methods for collective worship to enable the experience to be as valid and relevant to the pupils as possible. There will also be a ritual element associated with some of these methods to allow the pupils to benefit from the security and pattern of worshipping together. These will include the following as is appropriate to the nature of the occasion: (e.g.)

- Music on entry and exit.
- Hymn singing.
- Use of prayers, including the children's own, and the Lord's Prayer.
- Readings from suitable sources, including the Bible, but also other sources of worth

## **Resources**

Resources are available from the R.E. resources situated in the library cupboard and from the school library.

## **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, or the classroom. 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.

## **Leadership**

Members of the school management team and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

## **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Each term there will be weekly themes for assemblies. Assemblies will be planned to include an act of collective worship which will be linked to the theme for that week, or any listed celebrations, special occasions and events from all faiths. Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance (*Included in the appendix*) on acts of Collective Worship at Pencoys School. Leaders from faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

## **The Act of Collective Worship**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils. The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

## **Withdrawal**

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the head teacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

## Visitors to Collective Worship

### **Introduction**

Visitors can contribute much to the education of pupils in general and to the experience of collective worship in particular and as such are valued by the school. This policy seeks to clarify the role of visitors to collective worship and puts in place some safe guards for them and for the school.

### **The Role of Visitors to Collective Worship**

Visitors bring to collective worship their experience of the world and their perspective on the world from a faith position. Nevertheless, visitors will be made aware of the policy that the school has on collective worship and will be asked to abide by that policy.

It is not the purpose of collective worship to proselytise among pupils and this should be made clear to all visitors.

### **School Collective Worship Programme**

It will be the norm that visitors contributing to collective worship shall do so by contributing to the theme indicated for that week. However, for specific purposes visitors can be asked to deviate from the programme, especially where they might have a particular contribution to make in their own right.

### **Supervision of visitors**

As a matter of policy, visitors shall not be left alone with children. They should be welcomed at reception, supervised during their time at the school and as a matter of courtesy escorted to the exit, in line with the school's security policy.

### **Evaluating Contributions to collective worship**

As a key feature of schools is the striving for continued improvement, collective worship is not immune to the need for improvement.

Where a visitor contributes on a rare occasion, the teacher responsible for collective worship shall write, offering thanks and if necessary, giving feedback. Where a visitor is a regular contributor, the school will perform a simple annual review, which will look at the nature of future contributions in light of the schools programme.

### **Checklist for staff and visitors leading Collective Worship**

#### **Aims**

- To establish, affirm and celebrate the common and shared values of the school.
- To nurture the identity and nature of the school as a community.
- To develop positive attitudes among the pupils.
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- To enable pupils to come to terms with their own beliefs, values and commitments, and with those of others.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to experience and raise awareness of 'awe and wonder'.

Collective worship should be based on identified themes for the term unless it is a special occasion.

- It should be no more than 20 minutes.
- It should be broadly Christian, though not denominational, and include elements which specifically relate to traditions of Christian belief.
- It should include reference to a 'divine being or power'.
- The worship should be inclusive to accommodate the needs of non-Christian families.

- There needs to be a hymn and / time for a prayer or reflection
- Pupils may be invited to pray or listen to a prayer which they may wish to assent, but should not be forced to pray against their will.
- Music should be included to promote spiritual development