



Magdalen Gates Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-	Magdalen Gates Primary School
Approved by:-	Nonnie Williams, Kathryn Davenport and Georgia Dale
Chair of Governors:-	Nonnie Williams
Last updated:-	January 2024
Next review date:-	January 2025

Rationale

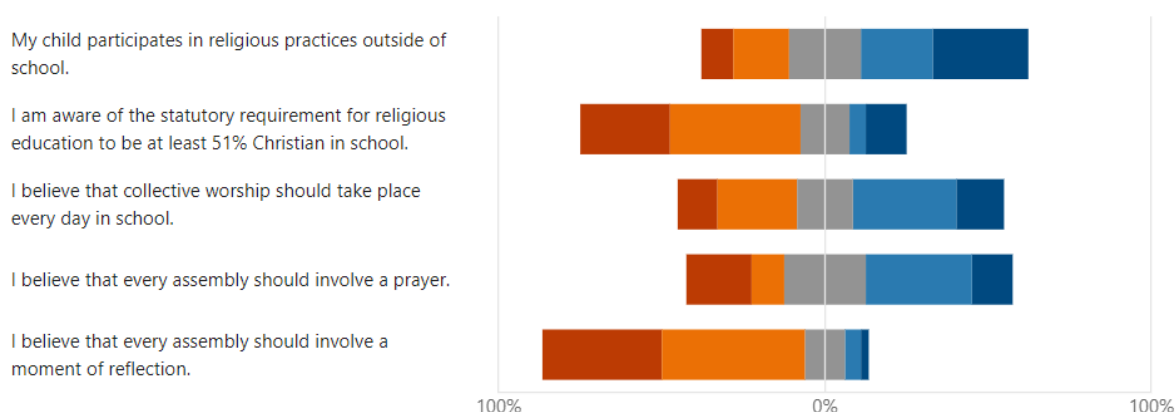
This policy has been developed to fulfil national statutory requirements, to raise awareness and understanding among pupils of the spiritual, moral and cultural aspects of modern British life. Magdalen Gates Primary School believes that Collective Worship should be a reflection of the important values in life and should be relevant to the beliefs and traditions of the school community.

This decision is based on the results from the Big Stakeholder Survey that was conducted during the Autumn term of 2023. Parents, Governors and Staff responded to this survey and expressed the following views about the nature of collective worship and assemblies in school.

5. Statements about assemblies and Collective Worship.

[More Details](#)

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ n/a



Taking these views into account, assemblies and collective worship in school will adhere to the following principles:

- Each assembly will involve a period of personal reflection. This will often be focused on the concept of being thankful.

- There will not be an explicit prayer at the end of most assemblies. Children may pray to their god at this time during the time for reflection.
- Assemblies will focus on a range of topics which are relevant to the diversity and interests of the school community – this will include celebration days and significant events from the major religions of the world. The most prominent religion will be Christianity.
- The content of assemblies will reflect and compliment the diversity of the school curriculum.

According to our pupil records (as @ 04.01.24) the distribution of belief and world view in our community is – in alphabetical order:

Recorded Parental Response	Percentage in 2023	Percentage in 2024
Buddhist	<1%	<1%
Christian (Church of England)	20%	18%
Christian (Roman Catholic)	4%	5%
Hindu	1%	1%
Muslim	8%	7%
No Religion	54%	56%
Not collected / Refused	11%	9%
Other Religion	1%	2%
Romanian Orthodox	<1%	<1%

The legal Requirements for Collective Worship

The Education Act 1996 requires:

- All pupils must take part in an act of collective worship every day at any time during that day.
- Collective Worship may be as a whole school or in different age groups e.g. Key Stages or Classes
- The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met.
- Collective Worship must take part on the school premises
- Collective Worship shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character
- Each member of staff, including the Headteacher, has the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective Worship.
- It remains the Headteacher's responsibility to lead Collective Worship
- All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially.

Aim of Collective Worship

The Law requires all schools to provide a daily act of Collective Worship. At Magdalen Gates Primary School and Nursery, we acknowledge that our school community is not a “worshipping community” in the same sense as a local church, but we aim to give children the opportunity to understand and experience some of the features of worship in Christian Community. The Law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of Collective Worship. We do this through time for quiet reflection.

Approach to Collective Worship

At Magdalen Gates Primary School, we believe that a core set of values is important to life as a Christian, for other faiths and for non-religious groups. Each half term the school focuses on a theme which also threads through the whole school curriculum. In addition, there may be times when the theme for the Collective Worship is linked with our RSE or RE curriculum.

Collective Worship is explored through many of the following methods:

- Bible stories
- Readings
- Reading and stories from main world religions or other cultures
- Sharing important national and international news, events etc.
- Sharing achievement and celebrating success
- Singing
- Poetry
- Drama
- Art
- Artefacts
- Video Clips
- Prayers
- Question and Answer sessions
- Reflection

Organisation of Collective Worship

The Headteacher and the SLT organise a rota for qualified staff to take Collective Worship within whole-school, key-stage and class assemblies.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the school brochure and asked to contact the Headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons should be given, but discussion with school is recommended.

Staff also have the right of withdrawal, upon discussion with the Headteacher.

Complaints about collective worship

Any complaints are covered through the school's complaints procedure. This is available on the school website or from the school office.