



Magdalen Gates Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-	Magdalen Gates Primary School
Approved by:-	Jessica Bannister, Paul Guille and Rupert Ephithite
Chair of Governors:-	Paul Guille and Orla Kennelly
Last updated:-	December 2025
Next review date:-	December 2026

Rationale

This policy has been developed to fulfil national statutory requirements and 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 important shared values and should be relevant to the beliefs and traditions of the school community.

Magdalen Gates Primary School is a community school with no religious designation. Collective Worship is inclusive of pupils of all faiths and none, and supports the development of respect, reflection and an understanding of diversity.

- Each assembly will involve a period of personal reflection.
- There will not be an explicit prayer at the end of most assemblies. Children may pray or reflect quietly in their own way during this time.
- Assemblies will focus on a range of topics relevant to the diversity and interests of the school community – including celebration days and significant events from major world religions. Christianity will be referenced across the year, as required by law.
- The content of assemblies will reflect and complement the diversity of the school curriculum.

The legal Requirements for Collective Worship

The Education Act 1996 requires:

- All pupils must take part in an act of collective worship every 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.
- 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, this is achieved through calm, quiet reflection. Pupils may use this time in accordance with their own beliefs.

Approach to Collective Worship

Collective Worship is explored through many of the following methods:

- Readings
- Stories from world religions and other cultures, including Bible stories
- Sharing national and international events
- Celebrating achievement and success
- Singing
- Poetry
- Drama
- Art
- Artefacts
- Video clips
- Optional personal prayers
- Question-and-answer sessions
- Reflection

Contribution to Personal Development

Collective Worship contributes to pupils' wider personal development by:

- promoting respect, kindness, empathy and responsibility
- encouraging thoughtful reflection and emotional literacy
- celebrating diversity and different worldviews
- helping pupils understand themselves and others

Organisation of Collective Worship

The Senior Leadership Team coordinates a rota to ensure that Collective Worship is delivered by a range of staff across 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. Parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. No reasons need to be given, although discussion 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.