



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY Archibald First School

**‘Collective Worship’** is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together to engage in relevant, meaningful experiences, providing opportunities for the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

At Archibald First School, collective worship is set within the context of ‘Assemblies’ – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship.

The Collective Worship Policy of Archibald First School is consistent with the school’s drive to develop children who are **curious, caring, creative** and **courageous**. Assemblies are non-denominational and are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

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

### **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, although they may take place as part of the same gathering.

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect upon life experiences, key questions, common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Schools often gather for achievement assemblies, singing assemblies and curriculum assemblies. These can be made into an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity for reflection, thought or prayer at the end of these times. Without it they stay as an assembly.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

Under the Education Act 1996, all maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils who are of statutory school age. Daily collective worship is not required in the Early

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Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Our younger children join us for the Friday celebration assembly on a weekly basis. In the final summer term, they also join us for singing practices and Key Stage 1 assemblies as part of the process of ensuring that they are 'Year 1 ready'.

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each afternoon assembly. These can be as a whole school, in Key Stages or in classes to allow for a more personalised focus.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully. Children are expected to behave respectfully and are asked to come in and leave assemblies in a calm manner.

### Aims of Collective Worship

#### For the School:

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

- share common aims, ethos and values: *we are curious, caring, creative and courageous*
- share expectations and rules; *we are: respectful, safe, responsible and ready*
- develop a community spirit; *having fun, learning together*
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live

#### For the Pupils:

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

- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own and others' beliefs
- reinforce positive attitudes such as tolerance, respect and kindness
- reflect on that which is considered important
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reflect on what it means to be a person in modern day society
- consider the wonders and worries of the world, country and local community
- express shared experiences and interests and for celebrating special occasions together.
- interact with other year groups, staff and the wider community
- perform and respond to a presentation of readings, music, dance, drama or prayer

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- learn about 'Zones of Regulation' by exploring how they feel and what they can do to help themselves get back to green (happy and calm) if they are feeling red (angry), yellow (frustrated or silly) or blue (sad)

### **Themes and Messages of Collective Worship and Assemblies**

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.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that our school community includes pupils who are practising members of other faiths, along with those who identify as non-religious we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths and reflect Modern British Values.

Examples of our themes: Respect, tolerance, friendship, equality, rule of law, kindness, trust, individual liberty, honesty, responsibility, the environment, safety and democracy.

We also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

We acknowledge that these are the beliefs of some, that they may not be the beliefs of all and fully acknowledge that not everyone has a belief or religion.

We plan our assemblies termly but they can be adapted to allow inclusion of current and topical issues. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

### **Recognising Achievements and Valuing Our Children**

Whilst incorporating an act of Collective Worship, our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of our children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Archibald First School is a successful school and we shall always celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

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### Leading Assemblies and Collective Acts of Worship

Every member of the teaching staff including the head teacher and deputy head teacher is responsible for leading acts of worship throughout the school year. **(See Termly Assembly Rotas)**

### Visitors

- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.
- Parents are invited to a class assembly once a year
- We welcome visitors to take assembly. E.g., road safety, practising faiths, local businesses and charities, environment issues etc

### Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship if they wish. The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body. The policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

**Approved: Spring 2023**

**Next Review: Spring 2026**

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- RE policy
- PSHE policy
- Equalities statement
- Visitors to school policy

Key Documents:

- [Collective worship in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [Religious education in local-authority-maintained schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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**Monday: OPAL (Upper Hall)** - Key Stage 1 and 2 assembly – sharing of key information for the week ahead in regards to play and lunch times; safety, choice, teamwork, sharing, tolerance, being courageous, creative play, developing thinking skills and curiosity

**Tuesday:** Class Novel and sharing of any key messages for the week ahead

**Wednesday: Key Stage 1 and 2 Music Assembly (Upper Hall)** - Songs linked to school ethos and values, Modern British Values and key messages from different faiths and religions.

**Thursday:**

**Key Stage 1 (Lower Hall) Key Stage 2 (Upper Hall) – Themed Assembly**

– Themes can include:

- Respect, tolerance, friendship, equality, rule of law, kindness, trust, individual liberty, honesty, responsibility, the environment, safety and democracy.
- School ethos and values; *we are, curious, caring, creative and courageous*
- School rules and expectations; *we are respectful, ready, safe and responsible*
- Celebrations of different cultures, religions, beliefs and celebrations.
- Key dates / Events in History
- Current and topical issues
- Zones of Regulation

**Friday (Lower Hall): Celebration Assembly** - A whole school assembly celebrating the achievement of our children linked to their academic work school values and out of school achievements.

*(Allows younger children to leave on time)*

***Each assembly will end with a reflection and a moment of thought***

## EYFS

**Monday:** PSED: School rules and values

**Tuesday:** Book Vote Station

**Wednesday:** Book Vote Station

**Thursday:** Music Assembly (Classrooms) – learning the school songs together

**Friday:** Whole School Celebration Assembly (Lower Hall)