



Collective Worship Policy

Name of School	Petersgate Infant School
Date of review	July 2025
Date of next review	July 2028
Reviewed by	Wendy Mitchell Headteacher

School Vision

"for all children to grow into responsible, caring individuals who actively and positively contribute to the community."

At Petersgate Infant School, our vision outlined above is strengthened by our values of safety, caring, achievement, resilience and friendship. These values symbolise warmth, community and cohesion to ensure we are "working together to achieve our best".

As a school, we can apply these values through the following aims:

Aims

- Ensuring everyone stays healthy and safe.
- Ensuring everyone feels valued and has a sense of belonging.
- Providing a high quality learning environment.
- Helping everyone enjoy learning and achieving their best.
- Nurturing and developing the whole child.
- Ensuring everyone makes a positive contribution to the school and wider community.

Safeguarding at Petersgate Infant School is carried out in line with the statutory guidance in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' published by the Department for Education.

1 PRINCIPLES

- a) As a school we follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- b) We have taken into account the Hampshire Collective Worship in Schools Guidelines.
- c) Collective Worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled.
- d) Collective Worship in school is open to all staff and pupils and no assumptions are made about their personal commitment. Although we value Collective Worship, we recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of Collective Worship. A request in writing to the Headteacher is required. Our policy on Collective Worship will be available to any parent who requests more information.
- e) Whilst awareness of other religious traditions and beliefs may be raised, we recognise that the proper place for fuller exploration of these issues is in Religious Education
- f) We interpret "Worship" as: - a time of reflection and stillness where we gather together to share experiences. Collective acts of worship provide an opportunity to reflect, respond reverent/respect.

2 AIMS

- a) To provide an opportunity for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.
- b) To create a feeling of Community and Belonging, built on mutual respect, recognise the differences between right and wrong and apply this understanding in their own life.
- c) To put aside a time for:
 - 1. *Sharing experiences and feelings i.e. being aware of own and sensitive to those of others;*
 - 2. *Reflection and stillness - a quiet time set apart from the general hustle and bustle of the school day;*
 - 3. *Celebrating things held to be of worth - both within the school community and in the wider world.*
- d) To develop:
 - 1. *A knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship.*
 - 2. *An awareness of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship.*

3 PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

- a) The majority of acts of Collective Worship will be based on the broad principles and values of Christianity. The majority of themes explored will be appropriate to pupils whatever their background or personal beliefs, whether Christian or otherwise.
- b) A collective act of worship should provide opportunities to:
 - Focus on a particular issue by providing a stimulus;
 - Encourage reflection on the theme;
 - Respond in a variety of ways, such as; prayers, singing, movement, drama, experiencing stillness or reflection.

- c) We would like to develop a sense of reverence over a period of time through the recognition of the importance of the occasion when we meet to affirm and celebrate the worthiness of the values which are of central importance to our community.

1.1 The whole school meets in the hall for Collective Worship every day.

1.2 A certain amount of flexibility must be allowed to meet unexpected changes in year group and school timetables. On days where it is not possible to hold Collective Worship in the hall it will take place in the classroom.

1.3 Reception children will initially meet in small groups in the classroom and will be integrated into whole school Collective Worship when deemed appropriate.

1.4 Collective Worship is, in general, led by a member of the Senior Management Team. There will be times when the Reverend from the local church and other visitors will lead or take part in collective acts of worship.

1.5 Children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship at their parent's request, will be supervised, by a member of staff (i.e. learning support assistant).

1.6 There are a variety of methods of presentation that may be used in Collective Worship. These include:

- Stories;
- Poems;
- Artefacts;
- Pictures;
- Discussions;
- Remembering;
- Drama;
- Practical Activities;
- Singing;
- Prayers;
- Quiet reflection time.