



Collective Worship – Policy Statement

Collective Worship at Riverview is securely founded on Christian principles and draws upon elements of the Anglican heritage. "Assembly" refers to the meeting together of members of the school community within which collective worship takes place.

Collective Worship is central to the fulfilment of the Riverview's mission statement to 'cherish, challenge and inspire children and adults within a Christian community'. Worship in the school community **is** the church for most of our pupils, and may be all that most ever experience of Christian worship. Whatever their faith background, each child will be given a sense of their own individual worth, of their value and unique gifts, of their place in the world and of their part in making the world a better place. They will encounter the love of God, who is creator, helper, guide and so much more. In worship, each child is given the freedom to think, to reflect on their lives, who they are, on the world and those around them, and on the big questions of life. Collective worship is a safe place to think, and to consider God on a growing personal level.

Riverview Church of England VA Primary & Nursery School promotes a distinctive caring ethos built on its Christian values. As a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school, collective worship reflects the traditions and practices of the Anglican Church while acknowledging and respecting other Christian traditions and faith communities.

Statutory Requirements

The school fulfils the legal requirement for a daily act of collective worship of a broadly Christian character for all pupils

Parents are reminded of their legal entitlement to withdraw their children from the daily act of collective worship.

The responsibility for all collective worship lies with the Governing Body in consultation with the headteacher.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship provides an opportunity for the whole school community:-

- To develop spiritual understanding and awareness



- To worship God together
- To reflect on the Bible and the life and teachings of Jesus
- To learn about and respect the teaching and practice of other faiths
- To develop an awareness of the pattern, order and purpose in the world, and respond to its beauty with a growing sense of awe and wonder
- To nurture the school's Christian ethos by promoting behaviour rooted in Christian values
- To increase pupils' understanding of being part of a caring community by developing awareness of the unique place of each individual within it

Collective worship develops spiritual awareness:

- By providing a time of quiet for reflection on the thoughts and themes presented
- By focusing on aspects of life that identify and grow a sense of awe and wonder
- By providing opportunities for pupils to engage in a variety of spiritual activities e.g. singing, dance, drama, readings and prayer
- By creating a distinctive atmosphere conducive to increasing faith through personal involvement
- By providing opportunities to celebrate achievements and shared joys

Collective worship promotes inclusivity:

- By engaging with all present, whatever their age or experience
- By involving pupils actively
- By focusing on the needs of all members of the school's community
- By promoting a sense of belonging through shared values, identity and purpose
- By enabling all present, regardless of personal faith, to appreciate and value opportunities for prayer and reflection.

Collective worship also becomes learning experience:

- By having a clearly defined objective and relating to pupils' present learning
- By using the Bible as a source of inspiration and learning
- By observing the cycle of the Christian year
- By learning traditional responses and prayers of the Christian faith
- By providing opportunities to learn about positive behaviour
- By responding to significant current issues or events



- By celebrating educational achievements and special occasions
- By involving members of the wider community

Organisation and planning of collective worship

The daily act of collective worship at Riverview takes place in a variety of pupil groupings, following the timetable and planning drawn up by the headteacher at the beginning of each term, as detailed below.

All pupils participate in collective worship unless parents have given prior notice in writing that they are to be withdrawn. Children withdrawn from worship sit in the entrance hall under the supervision of support staff for a time of reflection. Their parents are allowed to sit with them and guide them in this.

Teachers are bound by contract to attend assembly but have the right to withdraw from collective worship. It is intended that the inclusive nature of our collective worship will allow all staff to feel able to participate.

Half-termly themes for collective worship will be identified at the start of each school year, with details of the weekly themes made available at the start of each half term.

The school's spiritual links with Ruxley Church will be promoted by worshipping together in church at Christmas and Easter, and on other key occasions.

The weekly schedule of Collective Worship is as follows:

Monday	Whole school led by Headteacher or Senior Leadership Team
Tuesday	Class Assemblies through Circle Time with an act of worship at the end of the session
Wednesday	Whole school led by Generation Church 'Open the Book'
Thursday	Worship through song – lead by deputy headteacher
Friday	Whole school celebration assembly led by Headteacher or Senior Leadership Team

From time to time visitors may lead Collective Worship, either making a specific contribution or representing other Christian groups within the community.



Riverview C of E Primary and Nursery School

Ewell Family Centre with Riverview Daycare

Every child matters, every moment counts

Headteacher: Mrs M Atkins

- Governors
Governor visits to include feedback on worship
- Clergy
Clergy to lead worship and to provide feedback on planning and impact
- Parents
Parental feedback will be sought during parent forum meetings, after special acts of worship, and at the end of year report review
- Visitors
Visitors to collective worship will be encouraged to offer their perspectives on what they have experienced and observed
- Pupils
Feedback from children during informal discussions and School Council.