COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PROCEDURE (CURRICULUM)

Reviewer: Headteacher

Updated: November 2025

Review: November 2027

The legal requirements for Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day.
- the act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings; it may happen at any time of the school day.
- it has to take place on school premises.
- collective worship shall be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', that is it shall reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being destructive of any particular Christian denomination.
- the head teacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met.
- all staff, including the headteacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective worship. The headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship.
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

Aims

In addition at Whitegrove we aim to provide daily acts of collective worship which:

- support our commitment to UNICEF Rights respecting and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- are in line with our school values, aims and objectives.
- are educational experiences.
- are relevant to the needs of all our pupils at Whitegrove furthering tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions and faiths.
- encourage pupil participation.
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response.
- foster a sense of community, identity and self-esteem.
- build an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures.

The law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our Collective Worship. We therefore provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at some point in each act of collective worship. This time may involve spoken prayers but more often a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship God if they should wish to do so. In addition, we pause before our lunchtime meal to reflect on our blessings and every child has the opportunity to worship God if they wish to do so.

OBJECTIVES

We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community.
- celebrate special occasions together.
- show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world.
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society.
- reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

Organisation

The act of daily collective worship takes place on a whole school, key stage, team or class basis in the school hall or in the classrooms.

The weekly programme is:-

DAY	ARRANGEMENT			TIME
Monday	whole school EYFS when appropriate	Local & wider community Senior Leader PHSE theme in line with our Whitegrove curriculum and UN Rights Respecting	hall	Morning 9.10-9.30 20 mins
Tuesday	key stage	class teachers As above	hall	Morning or afternoon 15-20 mins
Wednesday	whole school	Senior Leader/ choir leader Praise and celebration through hymn and song	hall	Afternoon 1.10-1.35
Thursday		Reflection Class teacher/ pupils	classroom	Appropriate time for the class reflection

Friday	whole school EYFS when appropriate	Celebration school life Senior Leader & all teachers /LSAs	hall	Afternoon 1.10 – 1.30

A plan is made of themes that will be covered during assemblies during the term. These will reflect our school aims, PHSE curriculum (including UN Rights Respecting), Equality objectives and special events (School, British or global) or celebrations. We will always be mindful of our diverse cultural and religious demography and celebrate our unique cultural diversity.

Evaluation

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.