



**Comberton Primary School
Collective Worship Policy**

Date policy last reviewed: October 2025
Date of next review: October 2027

Signed by: Deena Frost Headteacher

Date: Oct 2025

Signed by: Sue Wombell Chair of Raising Standards Committee

Date: Nov 2025

Our Intent: *Our role at Comberton is to spark curiosity, creating a world of opportunity, awe and wonder for our children and staff. We aim to equip our children with the knowledge, skills and values to lead productive, healthy and inspired lives in modern day Britain.*

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| Our core values, supported by the British Values of: <i>democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; and the mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs</i> , are: | |
| Respect | <i>for all members of the school community; for the beliefs and ideas of others and the environment we create.</i> |
| Responsibility | <i>for our own actions, our own learning, and our pursuit of excellence.</i> |
| Tolerance | <i>celebrating and understanding differences, and learning from each other.</i> |
| Collaboration | <i>working together with different people for a common goal.</i> |
| Perseverance | <i>never, ever giving up. To be the best we can be.</i> |
| Determination | <i>to do the right thing and wanting to succeed.</i> |

Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly.

The headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the headteacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Our guidelines for collective worship are taken from the 1988 Education Act and Circular 1/94 which state 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 (In an aided school the Governors can make arrangements for worship elsewhere on special occasions e.g. the local church. In a controlled school acts of worship may take place off school premises but these should be in addition to the statutory acts of collective worship on the premises);
- the headteacher 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;

Our Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are to offer pupils the opportunity to:

- Explore and share beliefs and values; including both our school and British Values.
- Consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence;
- Consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives;
- Think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community;
- Reflect on the beliefs and celebrations of other faiths in our community;
- Appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them;
- Re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school;
- Celebrate the various achievements of members of the community;
- Understand how to keep themselves and others safe;
- Participate in activities which develop their cultural capital;
- Promote the love of reading and books;

'Worship' at Comberton is taken to have its natural and ordinary meaning and it must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities. We understand collective worship involves members of the school coming together.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and Circular 1/94 *"It is open to a school to have acts of worship that are wholly of a broadly Christian character, acts of worship that are broadly in the tradition of another religion, and acts of worship which contain elements drawn from a number of different faiths. Section 7(3) of the Act qualifies section 7(1) by providing that within each school term the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, but it is not necessary for every act of worship to be so (see also paragraph 124)."*

We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions and celebrations that are represented in the school and the wider community.

We aim to acknowledge and talk about major festivals and events in other world faiths as part of this programme. We also endeavour to draw on a wide range of source material from multicultural sources when planning assembly content.

Organisation of collective worship

Collective worship is organised into three groupings. Our EYFS pupils complete their daily worship within their own classrooms whilst our older pupils are organised into two groupings (Years 1, 2 and 3 and Years 4, 5 and 6) and complete their daily act of worship in the hall.

Themes

| | Phase 1 | Phase 2 |
|----------------|--|---|
| Monday | For the love of music – singing Lead by HT | Inspiration and Values Lead by DHT |
| Tuesday | Peter Cooper magic assembly based on Christian values (fortnightly) Open the Bible – lead by Local Church Group (monthly) | Peter Cooper magic assembly based on Christian values (fortnightly) Values/safeguarding (fortnightly) Lead by HT/DT |

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| | Values/safeguarding (monthly) Lead by HT/DT | |
| Wednesday | Inspiration and Values Lead by DHT | For the love of music – singing Lead by HT |
| Thursday | Celebration assembly | For the love of reading/subject specific Lead by staff on rotation |
| Friday | For the love of reading/subject specific Lead by staff on rotation | Celebration assembly Lead by HT/DHT |

The school holds weekly ‘celebration assemblies’ in which pupils’ achievements (academically, behaviourally, socially, attendance) are celebrated and rewarded. Each class selects two pupils who are recognised for their achievements.

We regard collective worship as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet, respectful and thoughtful, when appropriate, and to listen carefully to the message of focus of the assembly. We create an atmosphere by using music and/or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Visitors from a range of backgrounds are, from time to time, invited to participate in the act of worship. Visitors can include representatives from local churches (such as Open the Bible), other places of worship, governors and representatives from charitable organisations. In addition, we may visit local churches (e.g. St George’s/ St Chad’s) to hold special celebrations there as part of major Christian festivals.

Staff are actively encouraged to make use of a wide range of resources in order to fully engage the children; these may include religious artefacts, mystery objects, video clips, radio broadcasts, Picture News or pupil involvement. We also make use of some assembly ideas from a range of produced materials as well as on-line assemblies from the internet.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Equal opportunities

The staff and governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their gender, ethnicity or academic or physical ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests and reflect the multicultural society we live in.

Monitoring and review

The governors’ Raising Standards Committee takes a particular supervisory role for collective worship. The Committee liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship. This policy is reviewed every 2 years.