



**MURRAY PARK SCHOOL  
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

<b>Title of Policy</b>	<b>Collective Worship</b>
<b>Date of adoption</b>	<b>Autumn 2018</b>
<b>Originator</b>	<b>Sally Hadden</b>
<b>Date of review</b>	<b>Autumn 2021</b>
<b>Additional information</b>	

## **Collective Worship Policy Murray Park School**

The Collective Worship Policy of Murray Park School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

### **Definition of Collective Worship**

*'Collective Worship' is the type of worship that may take place in a school since it is appropriate to a 'collection' of people possessing a diversity of religions, agnostic and non-religious backgrounds and views because it does not pre-suppose a particular religious commitment.'*

*Bishop of London, 1989*

*"It is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of certain realities and values held to be of central importance to the community. It aims to foster the spiritual, moral and cultural development of those present by giving each person the opportunity to make a free response depending on their own religious or other commitment."*

*"School Collective Worship should provide experiences within which a pupil's spiritual development may flourish. It is an opportunity where individuals can appreciate being part of a larger group, where sharing of whatever is 'of worth' can take place*

*(Guidelines for collective worship)*

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

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

#### **For the School:**

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

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit
- reflect on recent events that have taken place locally or nationally

**For the Pupils:**

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

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

**The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Murray Park School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

**Organization**

The Education Report Act states that Collective Worship may take place in 'school groups'. Due to the limitations of space, our students gather for Collective Worship and Reflection in Community Groups and in meetings as a whole school community at the end of each term. Our year groups assemble for 15-20 minutes, once a week; during the four remaining morning periods, students share a programme of 'Thought for the Week'. The assembly programme will augment and enhance the 'Thought for the Week' themes and allow students to reflect more fully on the issues discussed in form time.

**Guidelines:**

The 'Thought for the week' programme of topics provides a structure for the year.

Each week has a theme and it is expected that the whole school will follow the theme, whether in whole school assemblies, year assemblies or in tutor groups.

Staff are welcome to use their own material if they wish but they are asked to stay within the theme for that week.

It is important to create the right atmosphere, especially in tutor rooms. The Collective Act of Worship may only take a few minutes but it needs to be set aside from registers, notices etc. in some way.

Pupils should be encouraged to engage with and reflect quietly on what they have heard.

*'Taking part' ...implies more than simply passive attendance ... an act of Collective Worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils.*

DFE 1/94

Sensitivity is required in leading prayer in Acts of Collective Worship. The integrity of the teacher as well as the pupils needs to be preserved.

*'Some people feel that it is quite inappropriate to expect pupils and teachers to pray to a god which they may not believe in. Others take the view that without prayer, the occasion cannot be true worship.'*

If a member of staff wishes to use prayer as part of their Act of Worship it is suggested that they preface the prayer with something like:

"Here is a Christian (or Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, etc.) prayer. Share in it if you wish, or if you prefer, reflect quietly in your own way."

*"... so long as the Act of Worship uses carefully chosen language which is sensitive to the variety of beliefs present in the school, it should be possible for all who are present to play a meaningful part in it without their own beliefs being compromised."*