

# Collective Worship Policy for Tranmere Park Primary School

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## **Ethos**

The Collective Worship Policy at Tranmere Park Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. It is sympathetic with the philosophy and ethos of the school;

‘Be yourself, Be your best, Be Team Tranmere.’

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at times it will feature aspects of the curriculum. Collective Worship will also enrich and reinforce the curriculum as the subject matter includes areas of PSHE and other curriculum areas. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will 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.

## **Statutory Requirements**

The most recent legal statement of the requirements for collective worship (as distinct from assembly) are contained in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. These build on similar requirements in Section 346 of the Education Act 1996, the Education Reform Act 1988, and Section 25 of the 1944 Education Act, where the law on compulsory collective worship began. Section 70 of the 1998 Act states that, subject to the parental right of withdrawal or other special arrangements, “...each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.”

Schedule 20 to the 1998 Act gives more detailed information on the worship requirements. It notes the different practical arrangements that are allowed: “a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.” A “school group” is defined as “any group in which pupils are taught or take part in other school activities”.

In community schools the head teacher is responsible for collective worship provision, in consultation with the governors. The majority of acts of collective worship in any given school term should still be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”. In other acts of worship, consideration should be given to “circumstances relating to the family backgrounds of the pupils which are relevant for determining the character of the collective worship which is appropriate in their case” and to the “ages and aptitudes” of the pupils.

## **What we teach**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings. Act of worship usually last for approximately 15 -20 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

At Tranmere Park Primary School we endeavour to provide a variety of worship/reflection experiences for the children. These include:

- Whole school worship/whole school reflection time/class reflection time
- Special themed and topical acts of worship
- Celebration of children’s achievements both in and out of school
- Whole school singing
- Acts of worship led by visitors from our local parish
- Visits to our local churches

<p><b>How we teach Collective Worship</b></p> <p>Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together, as a class, Key Stage or whole school and participating in an assembly. Our assemblies are of a broadly Christian character, however, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual beliefs and religions of all members of the school community.</p> <p>Collective Worship is a time when the school community can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• feel close to their god</li> <li>• consider the purpose and meaning of life</li> <li>• share common aims and values</li> <li>• celebrate achievement and special times</li> <li>• explore together the world in which we live</li> <li>• develop a community spirit</li> <li>• consider spiritual and moral issues</li> <li>• explore their own beliefs</li> <li>• develop their own spirituality</li> <li>• reinforce positive attitudes</li> <li>• participate and respond</li> <li>• time for calm reflection</li> </ul>
<p><b>How we monitor Collective Worship</b></p> <p>Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion with valued feedback from parents, visitors and other members of the school community.</p>
<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>A range of resources are available to support assemblies; these are stored in the staff room and the Head teacher's Office.</p>
<p><b>Right of withdrawal</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Inclusion</b></p> <p>Collective Worship at Tranmere Park Primary is free from bias or generalisation in respect of gender, class, race or disability. Resources will reflect the pluralistic society in which we live, avoid stereotyping and discrimination and promote positive self-images.</p>
<p><b>Safeguarding</b></p> <p>Tranmere Park is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.</p>

Please refer to the following additional policies to supplement this policy: SMSC policy, Single Equality Policy, PSHE policy, SEN and Inclusion Policy, RE policy, SRE policy.