



**Kernow Learning**  
Building Excellent Schools Together

# Assembly and Collective Worship Policy

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Statutory or Best Practice policy:	Best Practice
Appendices:	Yes
School or Trust policy:	School

### Meeting your communication needs:

We want to ensure that your needs are met. If you would like this information in any other format, please contact us on 01208 841306 or email [stkew@kernowlearning.co.uk](mailto:stkew@kernowlearning.co.uk)

## **Aims**

The aims and objectives of collective worship at St Kew Academy are to:

- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present, can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality in a religious or non-religious way
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult bring to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

## **Legal Requirements**

(for details see School Standard and Framework Act 1998 and Circular 1/94)

- All pupils must take part in a daily act of collective worship, unless they have been withdrawn from it by their parents.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.
- Collective worship sessions are to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', to be within the broad traditions of Christian beliefs, on the majority of occasions.
- Collective worship must be non-denominational in LA schools.

## **General Principles**

Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in our assemblies. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

## **Approaches to Assembly and Collective Worship**

Daily worship is provided through the following means:

- Whole school acts of worship in assemblies
- Class group act of worship in class assemblies

## **Management**

Responsibility for Assemblies and collective worship in our school lies with the Headteacher. The Headteacher:

- Provides a rota for leaders of assembly and collective worship
- Provides a sequence of topics for each termly theme
- Establishes and maintains a resource base
- Liaises with the local community in terms of visitors.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the message, and to participate fully. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, pictures, and other objects, to focus the attention of the children. Our acts of worship and assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and reflect on our school vision. Sometimes, we might invite outside visitors to participate in our assemblies.

### **Appendix**

#### **Beliefs that do not align with the structure of Collective Worship**

The school recognises that there are religious and cultural beliefs that may not fully align with the structure of collective worship. The school will encourage parents to discuss this and will aim to ensure that all religions and cultures are respected within the bounds of its statutory requirements.

### **Muslim attitudes to singing/musical instruments**

Singing is not regarded as a valuable asset by Muslim parents. It is felt that singing heightens the emotions, particularly when accompanied by musical instruments. Also, it is felt that singing is seldom useful in gaining a career. Singing hymns is unacceptable for Muslim pupils. Both singing and musical instruments are referred to in the Qur'an as being forbidden ('haram').

Non-religious singing could be acceptable if it does not affect religious, moral or cultural values.

The issue of singing cannot be generalised. The decision will be up to individual parents. The issue of singing/musical instruments remains the same whatever the age of the child. However, some parents may allow their children to take part in primary school as they are under the age of 11.

The school should inform the parents about the nature of assemblies and discuss the issues with them.

### **Jehovah Witnesses attitudes to assemblies**

Children from families who are Jehovah's Witnesses do not observe celebrations like birthdays and Christmas because they are 'rooted in paganism'. Because of this they may exclude themselves or refrain from joining in when such celebrations form part of collective worship or assemblies in school.

They are taught to be tolerant and respectful, recognising the right of others to celebrate, but, in turn, appreciate respect for their decision not to participate.