Pinewood Infant School and Foundation Unit Collective Worship Policy

School Aim: ***To make learning irresistible.***

Vision Statement: ***Together we give children the roots to grow and the wings to fly.***

School Values: **Responsibility Resilience Independence Curiosity Respect Kindness Honesty Self-belief**

Introduction

The collective worship policy at Pinewood pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the local authority through its SACRE. Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. All maintained schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development. What holds people and communities together are relationships and values and these lie at the heart of a school. Collective worship and assemblies pull all members of the school together into a cohesive community and promote the shared values of the school, British Values and an understanding of protected characteristics alongside other valued themes. It is a focal point of the day in any school community where all ages can/might meet one another, share together and establish a shared sense of identity. It concentrates on helping children understand and respect others, rather than telling them what to think and concentrates on both religious and non-religious viewpoints.

At Pinewood we believe that every child should grow up feeling safe, valued, respected and able to contribute positively to society. Teaching children about British Values and Protected characteristics is an important part of preparing them for life in diverse Britian.

By law, Collective Worship must:

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents (post 16 students can withdraw themselves) every day
- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils
- take place on the school premises, except on occasions, with agreement of governors

The collective worship should be broadly Christian in nature and reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief, but should not be denominational, doctrinaire or resemble a church service. Material/themes of traditions other than Christian will be included. Our collective values form the basis of all assemblies and these are reflective of all faiths. We can include material from other religions and non-religious world views. We focus on similarities between different beliefs as well as differences We recognise at Pinewood that our children come from a range of religious backgrounds and we attempt to ensure all children's denominations are paid tribute to in order to reflect inclusivity. We also recognise that most of our children come from families that do not follow a particular religion.

Aims

- To bring the school community together, in an attitude of reverence and reflection
- To strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member

- To be inclusive participative, challenging and educational, drawing on a wide range of religious traditions without compromising the religious or non-religious backgrounds of pupils (and staff), whilst giving those for whom it is appropriate the opportunity to worship and reflect.
- To ensure that the thematic content is interesting and relevant to the experience, social and cultural background of all our children
- To lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of different faiths, world views and environmental issues
- To ensure that the pupils are involved and participate as much as possible
- To encourage children to think and to consider big questions, to develop positive attitudes and hope
- To ensure that collective worship is an important means by which the collective values and ethos of the school can be celebrated
- To provide opportunities to promote the student's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To promote British values and protected characteristics.

Objectives

Collective worship provides opportunities for the pupils to:

- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- actively participate and respond and have time for reflection
- develop a sense of community
- share in promoting the values and ethos of the school
- promote positive attitudes and celebrate achievement
- foster care and concern for the needs of others

The Management of Collective Worship

The Head Teacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

1. HT draws up a rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week.
2. HT/DHT/the governing body observe collective worship sessions throughout the year to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law.
3. Teacher, pupil and, where appropriate, parental views are collected annually to evaluate the quality and impact of collective worship and to identify ways in which it might be improved.

The Organisation of Collective Worship Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall or the classroom. Acts of worship usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. We made the decision for children in the EYFS to remain in the EYFS Unit for their collective worship with the exception of the Friday Assembly. This was to do with their age and ability to sit in a large hall for 20 minutes and we felt the timings interrupted the flow of their play and morning inputs.

Delivery

Collective worship takes place at Pinewood each day. Our children are encouraged to view collective worship as a 'special time' in the day during which they look, listen and reflect together as a school community.

At Pinewood we arrange Collect Worship and Assemblies in the following ways:

Day	Time	Leadership	Place	Grouping
Monday	10.30	Head teacher	Hall	KS1
Tuesday	10.30	Head teacher	Hall	KS1
Wednesday	10.30	Class teachers' assembly	Classrooms	Year Group
Thursday	10.30	Teachers' rota with singing	Hall	KS1
Friday	9.00	Head teacher Special assembly	Hall	Whole school

Assemblies follow a similar format. The children enter and exit to music and we say together with actions our assembly starter to focus children into the assembly .







Starter slides are used for collective worship in classes Where appropriate we signpost the British Values and Protected characteristics.





The calendar for Collective Worship draws on broadly Christian foci, World Religious views, events and celebrations, non-religious views, school values, British values and Protected Characteristics and themes around keeping safe. All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship to ensure effective delivery and learning. A central record is kept of Collective Worship. There is no expectation that children will pray within assemblies or at any other time during the school day. The words 'a time to think' or 'a time to reflect' are used as an invitation for children to participate, rather than an instruction. The use of silence gives space for prayer for those that want to or a simple reflection time on what we have discussed. If this reflection time incorporates a prayer, then children are invited to join in with 'Amen' at the end if they so wish but there is no requirement.

Example of the collective worship timetable:

	Assembly theme
Week 2	
Mon 7/9	**RE: Worldviews and personal views Assembly 1 -individual liberty**
Tues 8/9	**Living without God- exploring humanism Assembly 2**
Wed 9/9	**The Creation Story (Christian) Awe and wonder!!!!**
Thur 10/9	**SINGING Focus**
Fri 11/9	**Special, Christian/School Values – belonging**
Week 3	
Mon 14/9	**International Day of Democracy (15th September every year)** **British value of democracy**
Tues 15/9	**Humanist values -Disney stories with a message- Ratatouille clip Assembly 3- non Religious World Views**
Wed 16/9	**The Big Bang Theory/ Scientific explanation of how the world began (Humanist)**
Thur 17/9	**SINGING Focus**
Fri 18/9	**Special, Christian/School Values – belonging**
Week 4	
Mon 21/9	**Equality 1– link to non-speaking non-verbal awareness day (30.09.24) Protected Characteristics**
Tues 22/9	**Equality 2 Assembly Protected Characteristics**
Wed 23/9	**The Rich Farmer Kindness +**
Thur 24/9	**SINGING focus**
Fri 25/9 26/9	**Special, Christian/School Values- belonging**

Special services

We include in our rota of assembly foci special times, e.g. Leavers' service, special times of celebration such as Red Nose Day and Remembrance Day. We also have visits from the Vicar from St Mary's, a drama visit from a local church group and encourage visits from people belonging to different faiths wherever possible. We also encourage assemblies from a variety of services e.g. Canine partners.

Music as part of our act of worship

Music is played before and after our assemblies to highlight that this is a special time for us to be together. We use music as part of our act of worship where appropriate to the theme as we see expressive arts as a medium able to evoke deep, intense feelings that are a part of an individual's memories, emotions or visual images. The expressive arts used may be selected to enhance the atmosphere for worship, stillness and reflection or to inspire thought and talking points in the areas of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The listening aspect of this time is also used to introduce children to:

1. Music of a variety of styles, cultures and traditions
2. A range of composers and famous works
3. Recognition and appraisal of a range of musical elements

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Pinewood Infant school and Foundation Unit 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 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.

Collective Worship. The Law and the Right for Withdrawal

In accordance with legal requirements all pupils in our school are required to attend a daily act of collective worship. It is the responsibility of the head teacher, after consultation with the governing body, to arrange for this to take place. Parents/carers may choose to have their child withdrawn from collective worship and it is the responsibility of the school to arrange supervision for any child withdrawn.

Date: 6th October 2026

Date of review: 6th October 2027

Reviewer: Rachel Otter Head Teacher