

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together to share a religious or moral message and to consider how such teachings can influence our behaviour and attitudes. It should be time to reflect, celebrate and strive for inner peace and spiritual understanding. Collective worship offers all children an opportunity to engage in relevant, meaningful experiences; and provides opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Although not a Christian school, we celebrate all the main Christian festivals throughout the year; and also recognise the major festivals of the other main world faiths.

Every child has the right to participate in collective worship, though parents may withdraw their children if they wish as laid down in the Education Act.

At Cheddington School we gather four days each week for some form of collective worship. Three times weekly we gather as a whole school – on Monday to introduce the key theme of the week, on Wednesday to sing, and on Friday to celebrate our achievements of the week and share our skills. Once weekly the children gather as a Key Stage, and consider a topic as age appropriate in one assembly and practice hymns and songs of celebration in the other. (YR and Y6 use this KS assembly time for shared buddie learning.) We have occasional class assembly time when the weather is too inclement for the weekly Mile Run.

A termly list of assembly themes is drawn up by the Head Teacher, to ensure cultural diversity is celebrated and all major festivals recognised. The Head Teacher takes Monday, Wednesday and Friday assembly; with the Assistant Head Teacher leading when the Head is unavailable. Key stage assemblies are taken by the class teachers on a rota basis. Class assembly, when held, is led by the class teacher or the children.

Visitors are welcomed to lead assembly – sometimes to bring cultural awareness and at others to celebrate key events.

Policy reviewed: Autumn 2018

Date of next review: Autumn 2021