AYLSHAM LEARNING FEDERATION

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Reference:	JT/Collective Worship Policy	Review Frequency:	3 Years
Issue Number:	04 (15.09.26)	Next Review Date:	15.09.2029
Author:	J Tuttle		

Ratified by the Governors' Curriculum, Assessment and Attainment Committee on: 15.09.2026

Signed: .....

Chair

---

1. Aims

The aim of the collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity to:

- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature, and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual, cultural, social and moral issues
- participate in and respond to the worship offered.

2. Statutory Duty of Schools

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, all maintained schools are required to provide an act of daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn– see 'Withdrawal' below), conducted on the school premises.

Within Aylsham Learning Federation, this is usually provided within assemblies and daily reflections where appropriate.

The Executive Headteacher/Headteacher is responsible for arranging the act of daily collective worship. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

3. Implementation

Collective worship, whether in assembly or at other times, will:

- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, considering the faith background of the school community
- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and children
- include a variety of spiritual and moral issues and elements at different times, reflecting the age of the children
- involve and engage the pupils

Daily/Weekly themes for collective worship, discussion and reflection may be proposed by any member of staff but will be agreed with the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher prior to being highlighted to staff leading the assembly or experience.

Visitors may also be invited to attend and lead assemblies. Guidance as to the theme, nature and duration of the assembly will be provided in advance to the coordinating member of staff to ensure the material delivered is appropriate for the school community and in line with this policy.

4. Withdrawal

Parents/carers may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They will be advised of this right on the school website and asked to contact the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given, but parents/carers will be invited to discuss the nature of the objections and the practical implications of withdrawal with the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher. Where arrangements are made to withdraw pupils, they should be confirmed in writing and records kept by the school.

The Federation retains a duty of care to all pupils. Children who are withdrawn from collective worship will be safely supervised by school staff during this time, engaging in alternative quiet reflection or independent study.

Staff also have the right to withdraw from collective worship on faith or conscience grounds and should confirm their intention to do so with the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher.

Where the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher wishes to withdraw from collective worship on faith or conscience grounds, this intention shall be confirmed with the Governing Board and the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher shall appoint a 'Collective Worship Coordinator' to agree and monitor the collective worship themes in their place. Responsibility for implementation of the policy across the school is still retained by the Executive Headteacher/Headteacher.

5. Complaints

Concerns expressed by parents/carers and others about collective worship in the school will normally be considered and, so far as is possible, dealt with in informal discussion with the tutor/class teacher, Head of House, or Executive Headteacher/Headteacher in the first instance. There may however, be cases where such concerns cannot be resolved

informally. These will need to be considered as formal complaints and dealt with via the Federation complaints procedure.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Executive Headteacher/Headteacher, in conjunction with the Governing Board will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Federation.