



Oakridge Schools Federation Collective Worship Policy

Approved by:	Full Governing Body
Review frequency:	Every 3 years
Date last approved:	Spring 2025
Next review date due:	Spring 2028

Aims and purpose

At Oakridge Schools Federation, we aim for collective worship to be an integral part of the curriculum, reflecting the ethos of the school and making cross-curricular links. Our collective worship is organised around themes which are based on values and is mainly of a broadly Christian character. The themes explored aim to contribute to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. In organising worship in this way we ensure that we are following the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide a focus for the school community each day involving its members as fully as possible
- To explore and express individual and communal values and needs
- To ensure a clear response to and celebration of diversity, including religious backgrounds ensuring that each individual's integrity is respected
- To have a coherent structure of themes over the year, allowing flexibility for topical themes or concerns and for a balance of Christian, secular and other faith-based assemblies
- To provide opportunities for large and small group interaction and reflection as well as for individual reflection
- To provide opportunities for parents and governors to be invited to participate as appropriate

Oakridge Schools Federation is a learning and growing community where academic, social, cultural, spiritual and moral values are developed and nurtured, and where all children have equal access to the education provided.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes the form of either a whole-school assembly, year group assembly or class assembly. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and are offered the opportunity to worship through the use of prayer, story, hymns and songs, poetry, drama, the use of artefacts, presentations, quiet reflection and discussion. By the use of symbolism and imagery, as well as words, each assembly aims to be accessible to all children present.

The school also involves a range of individuals from the school and wider community, outside speakers and visiting groups depending on current themes, topical issues and planned events.

All children, irrespective of religious background, race, gender, social status or ability will be given equal opportunities to access this area of the curriculum. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from acts of worship; if any parent wishes to discuss this and the alternative arrangements that will be made for a child, please contact the Headteacher.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Oakridge Schools Federation is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of the governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor committee concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.