



Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

May 2026

Policy review date: May 2026

Date of next review: May 2028

School Vision Statement

Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School provides a caring environment where everyone is respected and valued; where unity lies at the heart of our community. Our aim is to provide an enriching curriculum which evokes aspiration and inspires all children to be the best versions of themselves. Through determination, courage, excellence, pride and success, we strive to encourage children to become confident, ambitious and passionate learners; laying the foundations of knowledge, skills and understanding for life-long learning.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship stated in The Education Regulations 1994 Circular states “that worship should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.” This is distinct to an assembly where information and news may be given out. It includes providing the opportunity for pupils to worship God to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.

Taking part in collective worship means more than passive attendance. The act of worship provided must be one to which pupils are capable of responding. This may be through being actively involved in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered.

Collective Worship has a designated time in the curriculum timetable under the 1988 Education Reform Act. It must be provided for all registered pupils and is in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus.

Rationale - Aims and Purpose

Collective worship is underpinned by our school vision and values.

- To enable each child to explore our shared human experience and the questions of meaning and purpose which arise from our experiences.
- To enable pupils to know about and understand diverse beliefs and practices and promote world view.
- Furthering pupils’ personal growth and development of their own world views.
- Pupils should develop the ability to explore and make meaning of their own experiences and those of others and respond to those experiences.
- To provide children with opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We recognise the inter-relationship between pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and the role, which Collective Worship curriculum plays in some of these areas.
- To develop the ability of pupils to think about, and develop for themselves, beliefs, values and concepts like celebration, the sacred belief and world views through exploring fundamental questions of life.

Objectives

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community.
- Celebrate special occasions together.
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world.
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards.
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life and cultures.
- Reflect on the way in which spirituality is expressed through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practices and service.

Organisation and Procedure

Collective worship is planned carefully through discussion with the EHT, staff, pupils and sometimes other visitors to school. We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school for all children. There is a thoughtfully planned and varied programme for daily acts of worship underpinned by our vision and values which allows for the progressive development of themes and ideas on an annual cycle. Current affairs nationally, globally or within the school community sometimes take precedence over the theme where appropriate – for example, natural disasters, General Elections, the Olympics.

We also build in clear curriculum links wherever possible – including opportunities to explore beliefs of others, the context of our own values and how we can apply them in life.

The content of collective worship aims to encompass spiritual, moral, social and cultural areas of religion and is broadly of a Christian nature. This is done in a variety of ways, through stories, readings, discussion, music, and dramatic interpretations. The content and format of collective worship are suited to the age, of pupils and serve to focus attention appropriately to create a respectful mood.

Pupils are encouraged to demonstrate respectful attitudes towards different faiths or cultures at all times and are actively encouraged to make comparisons with teachings of faith with their own experiences.

Pupils are actively encouraged to make suggestions for worship, and they will generally be invited to lead the worship they suggest or make that request of the appropriate person (School Council/charity representatives/ members of the family etc). At least for two terms during the school year, pupils are asked to volunteer to lead worship around a central theme.

A variety of other sources also inform the planning and implementation of worship including:

- JIGSAW PSHE resources
- Internet resources.
- Varied stories and texts

Space and Time for Reflection

Pupils will be taught about the purpose and value of prayer and reflection as part of the ongoing daily worship.

Opportunities for pupils to pause and reflect are incorporated into the school day.

Exemption from Collective Worship

The 1944 and 1988 Education acts states “If a parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship or Religious Education given in the school, then the school must comply”. ERA 1988 Section V. Arrangements will be made for the safe supervision of pupils to whom the entitlement does not apply.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Executive Head Teacher is directly responsible for the management of daily acts of collective worship in this school: however, the staff are responsible for ensuring it supports the school’s visions and values – by regular attendance at worship, by leading worship themselves or enabling pupils to lead worship effectively.

Governors and senior staff monitor and review worship together, and pupils, staff and parents are regularly encouraged to feedback on worship they have shared in or led.

This policy was compiled using the following documents for guidance:

- The Education Regulations 1994 Circular1/94
- Lincolnshire Syllabus for RE