

Uplands Junior School Collective Worship Policy 2023

At Uplands, we understand the importance of collective worship in terms of its educational, inclusive and spiritual nature and this can play an important part in the lives of our pupils. We ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is embedded into all collective worship that takes place in our school, while recognising the spiritual element of a child's development, along with social and moral well-being, cultural development and physical and mental health. Collective worship takes place daily and is appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, in line with British Values and our 'Rights-Respecting' ethos. Indeed our assemblies seek to strengthen our school values. Collective worship is an opportunity for pupils to celebrate their own achievements, as well as those of the school and the community. All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs in line with [UNCRC Article 14: Freedom of thought, belief and religion](#). The Equality Act 2010, places a duty on us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations. Our collective worship affirms diversity and the needs to respect the integrity of pupils and teachers whatever their beliefs and backgrounds.

Acts of collective worship take place at clearly designated times of day, sometimes as a whole school, or as a key stage, year group or class. They seek to encourage interaction and responses from pupils, as well as at times, to be led by pupils, thus promoting [Article 12 \(Respect for the views of the child\)](#) and [Article 13 \(Freedom of expression\)](#). Acts of collective worship will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community, as well as help them understand the importance of British Values and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, pupils are given opportunities to reflect on how they shape us in terms of being responsible global citizens. Collective worship contains elements drawn from a number of faiths, which reflect the backgrounds and faiths of the school community.

Collective worship takes place in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be reflective and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children. Assemblies are normally conducted by the head teacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or representatives of local religious groups. Our assembly themes are planned well in advance of the day they take place.

Legal Requirements

The law requires that all pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship. Taken over a term, the majority of such acts should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. Specifically, the law requires that

- All pupils should take part in an act of collective worship each school day

- There may be a single act of collective worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups
- In community schools without a religious character, the Head Teacher, after consultation with the Governing Body, is responsible for the arrangements for collective worship
- Acts of collective worship shall take place on the school premises
- Acts of collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all acts of collective worship. The parent does not have to give a reason for this request. The school retains responsibility for the pupil's health and safety.
- All Teachers (including Head Teachers) retain the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship.