

# OWSLEBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT



## NO. B160 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### Review History

Date of Update	Reason for Update	Next Update
Spring 2026	Review by Full Governing Body	Spring 2030

### Introduction and Legal Context

Owslebury Primary School is a community school and does not have a religious character. We are, however, required by law to provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils, in line with the Education Act 1996 and School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Collective worship at Owslebury Primary School is:

- **Inclusive** and respectful of pupils from all faiths and none
- **Educational rather than confessional**, and does not seek to convert or promote a particular religious stance
- **Wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character over time**, while drawing on a wide range of moral, cultural and spiritual traditions
- **Appropriate to the age, aptitude and backgrounds of our pupils**

Parents retain the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship.

### Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, come together to reflect on shared values, experiences and concerns. It provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development through reflection, stillness, story, music and discussion.

As a community school, Owslebury Primary School understands collective worship as inclusive reflection rather than corporate religious worship.

### Aims of Collective Worship

- **For the School:**

Collective worship contributes positively to the ethos of Owslebury Primary School by enabling pupils and staff to:

- Share and reinforce our school values
- Celebrate achievements and significant events
- Develop a sense of belonging and community
- Reflect on moral, social and global issues
- Foster respect, tolerance and understanding

- **For the Pupils:**

Through collective worship, pupils are encouraged to:

- Develop their own beliefs, values and sense of spirituality

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- Reflect on what it means to be human
- Appreciate awe, wonder and creativity
- Explore moral choices and ethical behaviour
- Respect diversity of belief, culture and background
- Participate actively or reflect quietly according to personal belief

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective worship supports SMSC development by:

### Spiritual Development

- The Celebration of Special Achievements
- Guided Reflection
- The consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings
- The appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and contribute to a sense of awe, wonder and creativity

### Moral Development

- The consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society eg: telling the truth, being thoughtful, kind, caring, helping each other and respecting others.
- The consideration of relationships and bullying
- Encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives

### Social Development

- Coming together as a school community
- Bringing visitors into school from the community
- Sharing values and matters of concern

### Cultural Development

- Using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds, respecting the customs and life styles of other cultures.
- Promoting respect and tolerance for different lifestyles and beliefs

## Organisation of Collective Worship

- Collective worship takes place daily through assemblies or class-based reflection.
- Whole-school assemblies usually take place four times per week, with at least one class-based session weekly.
- Themes are planned to ensure breadth, balance and progression.
- Assemblies may include stories, music, reflection, artefacts, visitor input, celebrations and moments of silence.
- Christian festivals are marked alongside learning about other religious and cultural traditions.

## Visitors and Community Links

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Owslebury Primary School values strong community partnerships that enrich collective worship:

- The school has a secure and supportive link with the Reverend at St Andrew's Church, Owslebury, and pupils visit the church at least twice a year.
- Visitors from Christ Church, Winchester regularly lead assemblies.
- All visitors are briefed on the school's inclusive approach and are expected to respect the diverse beliefs of pupils and families.

Visitors support learning and reflection but do not seek to evangelise or promote denominational views.

## Prayer and Reflection

Prayer may be used as a form of reflection, but pupils are not required to say prayers or participate in religious responses. Language is inclusive, offering pupils the opportunity to:

- Join in prayer if they wish
- Reflect silently
- Consider the message in a personal, non-religious way

Moments of silence and guided reflection are regularly used.

## Equal Opportunities

Owslebury Primary School is committed to equality, inclusion and respect. Collective worship reflects these principles by valuing diversity and ensuring that all pupils feel safe, respected and included.

## Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher. Pupils who are withdrawn will be appropriately supervised during this time.

**End Policy**