



Unity Education Trust

POLICY	COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY
STATUS/DATE OF THIS VERSION	Review by AJ
APPROVED BY	Trust Board 6 Nov 2018
RATIFIED BY	Beeston School Oversight Committee 14 January 2019
REVIEW	2019-20

This policy is operated by all the schools in Unity Education Trust. **There may be sections that are specific to one school and these will be added by the school either as an annex or in place of yellow highlighted sections below.**

- Beeston Primary
- Garvestone Primary
- Grove House Infant
- Kings Park Infant
- Northgate High School and Dereham Sixth Form College

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the *School Standards and Framework Act 1998* and DfE (1994) *Religious Education and Collective Worship*.

Our schools are required by law to provide a daily act of collective worship. All pupils should take part in some appropriate grouping as some point in the day – unless they have been withdrawn by their parents.

The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 states that the daily collective worship shall be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” though not representative of any particular Christian denomination. Not every act of collective worship is required to be Christian, provided that “taking any school term as a whole” most are.

Policy Aims

Collective worship in UET schools aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual’s life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

Organisation and planning

The Headteacher/Head of School is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the Local Governing Body. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability to pupils’ ages, backgrounds and abilities. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship.

Each Head/Local Governing Body may attach, as Annex 2 to this policy, its own schedule for collective worship activity.

Right to withdraw

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so. Parents/carers should make their wishes known to the Headteacher/Head of School and will be encouraged to discuss their decision in terms of the practical implications. For example, withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence in which case the school will need to ensure that any pupils who are withdrawn are appropriately supervised while the collective worship takes place. However, if it is so agreed between the Head and the parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

Annex 1 School specific arrangements

Beeston Primary School - NONE