

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Elmridge Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Elmridge Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. The provision of opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The content of all acts of Collective Worship is considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Visitors are welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and are given careful guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Elmridge Primary School. Leaders from Faiths within the area increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths. A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are utilised in acts of Collective Worship.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.