Central Bedfordshire SACRE

Collective Worship Guidance

November 2025

Central Bedfordshire SACRE

Our aim is to promote, support and encourage pupils so that they are supported to develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and morally in a way that enables them to understand themselves and others and to cope with the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of living in a rapidly changing, multicultural world through inclusive learning experiences.

We have reviewed our guidance to:

- Support schools in recognising quality **Collective Worship** opportunities
- Encourage and enable schools to provide quality **Collective Worship** that will lead to…
- Improved community relations and **cohesion**

Collective Worship

"…schools must promote their pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development and provide …daily collective worship for all registered pupils" which must be "mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination."

(Circular 1/94, 1996 Education Reform Act)

- **What is the law?**
- **What is 'collective worship'?**
- **What is the difference to 'assembly'?**
- **What is 'broadly Christian'?**
- **What could it look like?**

What is ‘collective worship’?

‘to promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development’

‘Collective Worship’

- Inclusive, educational
- Gathering for reflection
- Shared values
- No assumption of similar beliefs/backgrounds
- Opportunity to, or an *experience* of, worship

‘Corporate Worship’

- Same/shared faith
- Often includes specific rituals,
  e.g. prayers, hymns, or sermons

What is 'collective worship'?

What does 'broadly Christian' mean?

'Collective Worship'

- Inclusive, educational
- Gathering for reflection
- Shared values
- No assumption of similar beliefs/backgrounds
- Opportunity to, or an *experience* of, worship

Reflecting on fundamental questions about purpose of being, morality and ethical standards within:

- Accepted Christian belief
- Reflected in other religions
- Drawn from different faiths
- Include non-religious e.gs

Reverence or veneration paid to
a divine being OR *power*
some giving special status to Jesus (as) Christ

What might this look like?

"**Divine**"

Ultimate and eternal truth, spirit, power or force behind all that exists or is living

Something other than, and supreme to, humanity

e.g. 'God', Allah, Brahman, Mother Nature

- Opportunity to, or an *experience* of, worship

Reverence or veneration paid to *a* divine being OR *power* *some* giving special status to Jesus (as) Christ

What might this look like?

‘Collective Worship’

- Needs to be **clearly defined** from any learning/assembly content
- There is no specific **minimum** time or ‘group’ required → “Daily”

You could introduce this **change** in activity dedicated to collective worship by:

- Dimming the lights to create a different atmosphere
- Light a candle
- Display some prayers or quotes (from various faiths, religions and non-religious sources)
- Use some words to call pupils’ together such as:

‘Let us pray’ **or** **‘Let’s look inwards for a moment’**

‘Let’s reflect upon…’ **‘Inside your own head …’**

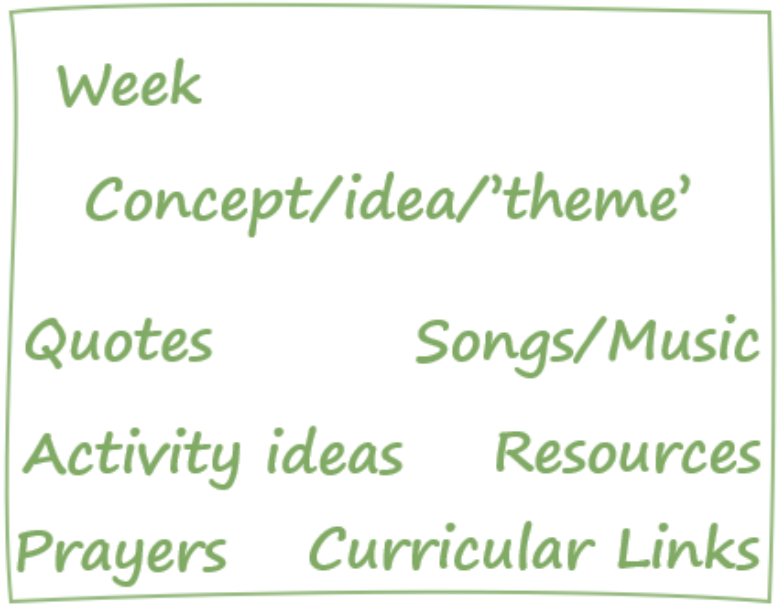
‘Let’s think about how you feel/what you believe about….’

- Could be extended with a focused activity like writing a prayer together

What might this look like?

The following examples are being developed **collaboratively** with:

- Local schools
- Local faith groups
- Other SACREs



Using a **model** that:

- Promotes **interfaith**/belief sharing alongside personal **reflection** opportunities
- Can be used **flexibly** by schools in assemblies, form time or registration sessions
- Can be used in **conjunction** with or as an audit tool for selecting other Collective Worship packages/materials (including those from the local Diocese)

Contact **us** to find out more