

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together to share a religious or moral message and to consider how such teachings can influence our behaviour and attitudes. It should be time to reflect, celebrate and strive for inner peace and spiritual understanding. Collective worship offers all children an opportunity to engage in relevant, meaningful experiences; and provides opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Although not a Christian school, we celebrate all the main Christian festival throughout the year; and also recognise the major festivals of the other main world faiths.

Every child has the right to participate in collective worship, though parents may withdraw their children if they wish as laid down in the Education Act.

At Cheddington School we gather daily for some form of collective worship. Twice weekly we gather as a whole school – on Monday to introduce the key theme of the week, and on Friday to celebrate our achievements of the week and share our skills. Twice weekly the children gather as a Key Stage, and consider a topic as age appropriate in one assembly and practice hymns and songs of celebration in the other. Once weekly the children participate in a class-time assembly.

A termly list of assembly themes is drawn up by the Head Teacher, to ensure cultural diversity is celebrated and all major festivals recognised. The Head Teacher takes Monday and Friday assembly; with the Deputy Head Teacher or Assistant Head Teacher leading when the Head is unavailable. Key stage assemblies are taken by the class teachers on a rota basis. Class assembly is led by the class teacher or the children.

Visitors are welcomed to lead assembly – sometimes to bring cultural awareness and at others to celebrate key events.