



# Collective Worship Policy

Version Number	V2
Date Adopted by Governors	May 2023
Scheduled Review Date	May 2025
Statutory or Best Practice Policy	Best Practice
School or Trust Policy	School

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## Christian Distinctiveness

At Sky Primary and Eden Project Nursery, our mission is 'Learning Beyond the Classroom'.

We belong together following our values of : nurturing, curious, inspiring, creative, active and connected.

Our Ways of Being ethos encompasses:

We work hard; we respect everyone and everything; we are brave; we are kind and helpful; we are always honest; we listen to each other and we celebrate our differences.

We believe that we will achieve through inspirational, exciting and challenging learning that utilises our natural environment. We aspire to create endless possibilities for our pupils and to make a positive contribution to society. We achieve by enabling everyone to flourish academically, spiritually and emotionally.

## Aims

The aims and objectives of collective worship at Sky Primary and Eden Project Nursery are to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace – acknowledging religious beliefs of people across the world
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder
- Enable children to become familiar with our British values
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language (and other religions) and symbolism and the cycle of the Church and religious year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and reflecting, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of

mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything

- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

### **General Principles**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion showing reverence and respect for everyone and everything. Time Together (Collective Worship) involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in our assemblies. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that 'collective worship' should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the many aspects of different religions in our world. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. We hold Time Together that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### **Organisation of Time Together (Collective Worship)**

We hold a daily act of Time Together (collective worship). This can be either a whole-school, a key stage or a class assembly of pupils for reflection. We conduct Time Together in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that Time Together time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the message, and to participate fully in reflection. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using resources, music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children. Our Time Together reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in Time Together by sharing their learning to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Time Together sessions provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and reflect on our school vision – learning beyond the classroom.

Reflection time plays an important part in promoting the values of the school which are linked to our Ways of Being and to relevant events and people appropriate to the calendar. We hold our Great Works events that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Time Together Jigsaw <b>Celebrating difference</b>	Time Together Values <b>Curiosity</b>	Time Together Conversation Time	Time Together Reflection	Time Together Ms Vyvyan

### The planning of Time Together

Time Together is planned to take account of the major festivals and seasons of the calendar and of different world religions, and to link with the curriculum plan and SMSC plan. It also covers other initiatives or topics of interest within the school. Plans are made annually, are reviewed half termly and aim to provide continuity and progression, without undue repetition. Opportunities are considered to develop spirituality, and reflection, over a period of time. For each half term, there is a theme for Time Together based on the particular value for the term; those leading Time Together are encouraged to relate their focus to this theme.

Those responsible for leading Time Together include the head, Chair of LGB, teachers. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading Time Together to approach it from their own perspective. Resources to aid and guide planning include, picture news as well as online content drawn from assemblies.org. and many other resources including Twinkl. Children and families are also encouraged to continue exploring the theme for time Together at home each term through our school newsletter. This will mean that by the end of the period, the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively, class teachers are also encouraged to develop their Time Together from events that occur on the curriculum or in the news during the week. We will use the resource, Picture news, to aid this. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. Any act of Time Together should be an experience which is inclusive and where all children can contribute and gain.

### Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend Time Together however any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship. In this case the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request, however, as Time Together occupies such a daily place in the life of our school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Time Together coordinator keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Time Together. In addition each class teacher keeps a record, in their planning, of all class assemblies that take place.

## Format

There is no hard and fast format as it is essential that acts of reflection have a degree of spontaneity and flexibility but the following elements are desirable:

- The act will have a clear focus or theme
- There will be time for reflection and stillness
- A hymn or song related to the main theme of worship may be sung at an appropriate place
- Recorded or live music may be used to create an atmosphere or focus
- A greeting is exchanged between the leader and participants
- Included in Time Together may be stories, Bible readings, dramatised readings, poetry, drama, dance, artefacts or other visual aids
- At an appropriate point prayers are said. These may be drawn from published works or from the children themselves
- Any notices etc, will be clearly separated from the Time Together focus. This is also the case when a special time is set aside to acclaim children who have made special achievements.

## Planning, Recording and Evaluating

Whole school Time Together sessions will be planned, recorded and evaluated with documentation kept in a separate file. Emma Vyvyan is currently the Time Together Co-ordinator and provides guidance and support by organising whole school themes across the year. Time Together can be evaluated by those leading the reflective sessions, other staff, the pupils for whom the Time Together is intended or members of the LGB.

Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of Time Together offered to the pupils.

Paperwork is kept to a minimum to support teachers' workload. There are specific times across the year when the whole school will focus on a united theme which will permeate many different aspects of school life. Monitoring of Time Together Planning and provision of reflection is informally monitored on a regular basis.

## Conclusion

At Sky Primary and Eden Project Nursery all should view Time Together as meaningful and valuable, a time when all adults and children are as one to reflect on joys, and sorrows, to express thanks, share concepts and experience and re-affirm the values of the school community of which they are all a part.