



**Villa Real School**  
*together we achieve*

# Collective Worship Policy

## 2024

Responsibility: Angela Doogan

Date: July 2024

Date to be reviewed: September 2027

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

It is a legal requirement that all registered school-age pupils participate in worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for most of the time. They must also be “appropriate, regarding the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds”.

The Collective Worship Policy at Villa Real School pays due regard to legal requirements and is consistent with the guidelines offered by the SACRE of Durham Local Authority. This Collective Worship Policy reflects the spirit of Villa Real School and is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the School as expressed in the School prospectus.

### **DEFINITION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Worship from within a faith tradition has a precise definition. A school community is not a worshipping community, and the law recognises this by requiring “collective”, not “corporate” worship. Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worth-ship. This might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to God and people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit.

Worship, as defined in this way, draws on literature, music, art, drama, and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way, collective worship is inclusive, not exclusive.

### **AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

At Villa Real School, we believe that collective worship supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the values we place on the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, and intellectually, are reflected in our worship. We value this particular time in the school day for the space it gives our pupils to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship, we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for pupils to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and broader community.
- Grow in understanding other people's feelings in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings.
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Grow in confidence when presenting to the group or whole school.
- Respond freely to religious and spiritual stimuli.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether religious or not.

### **THE CONTRIBUTION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TO ASPECTS OF THE CURRICULUM**

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all curriculum areas so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular, school worship develops the feeling of belonging to a community, essential for personal development and spiritual growth. Collective Worship can contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners through:

- New experiences.
- Celebrating together.
- Celebration of each other.
- Creating a sense of wonder.
- Learning about other cultures and religions.

### **OBJECTIVES**

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in and concern for members of the school community.
- Celebrate special occasions together.
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, and the wider world.
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- Explore and review the various values, attitudes, and standards of religions and society.

- Reflect on how humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, and service to God and others.

### **THE ORGANISATION AND LEADERSHIP OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Senior Leadership Team leads whole-school collective worship in the school hall for secondary students on Friday and primary students on Monday at 10:00 a.m. Collective worship and reflection time are also scheduled for every class daily. Other members of the school staff and organised visitors will lead acts of worship when appropriate at some point during the school year. There is an annual calendar of themed assemblies.

### **RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from parts or all acts of collective worship.