

Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust



Collective Worship Policy

Redhill Primary Academy and Thomas Telford Primary Free School



Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dara Carroll'.

Mr Dara Carroll
Chair of Governors
September 2025

1. Aims and Purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are to:

- provide an opportunity for worship
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- enable children to explore their own beliefs
- encourage participation and response
- develop in children a sense of community spirit
- promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- enable children to have experience of practices for worship

2. Collective Worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion the purpose of which is to show spiritual reverence. Collective worship involves all members of the key stage or school or class coming together and participating in an assembly.

2.2 In line with the 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 teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church.

2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in the schools are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the schools and the wider community. We follow the multi-faith religious calendar and link assemblies to faith days or festivals across different religions and where possible, we attempt to link them to our topics covered in RE.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship

3.1 We participate in a daily act of collective worship in our schools. This forms part of each assembly, which is normally a whole school or class assembly.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. At the end of each assembly, we have either a prayer or a reflection of the day linked to the theme of that assembly.

3.3 The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious and non-religious groups conduct them instead. (See half termly timetables with named staff and theme of worship.)

3.4 We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We however do include other special days from the multi-faith calendar to reflect the cultures and religions we have in our school communities. Sometimes the themes reflect and build on topics that are taught as part of the curriculum in the schools.

3.5 All Collective Worship is planned and recorded in a file to ensure thorough monitoring that we are delivering Collective Worship and not just Assemblies. Reflections and Prayers are read by staff or children.

4. Right of Withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request

permission for their child to be excused from attending collective worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.