



# Collective Worship Policy

**2024-25**

Pear Tree Mead Academy

Part of the Passmores Co-operative  
Learning Community

**Aims:**

At Pear Tree Mead we will provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Respond to the worship offered

**Entitlement:**

We are required by law to provide a daily “act of collective worship” for all children in early years foundations stage, key stage one and key stage two which must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. We do this within our daily assemblies and group / class gatherings.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from the daily act of collective worship and RE, however our acts of worship are inclusive and we hope that children of any faith can feel comfortable as part of them. We welcome visitors of all faiths to lead our assemblies. Representatives from the Christian church will be invited to lead our main Christian festivals which include Harvest, Christmas and Easter. These are held on school site or at the local church.

We hold collective worship as follows:

**EYFS and Year 1**

Assembly based.

**Ks1 & 2- Throughout the week**

Class celebration assembly led by class teacher- with a moment to reflect on successes.

Online safety sessions, reflecting on these discussions and issues.

Whole school assembly for Yr 2-6 focussing on branches, national days and events with a reflective moment.

Mental health and wellbeing class-based assemblies may also take place at other times of the day.

**Assemblies last for a period of 20 minutes and start at 9am.**

Children enter and leave the assembly quietly. Music may be played at this time to encourage stillness and a readiness to listen and engage in the act of worship. There is usually a short presentation, discussion or story followed by a moment of reflection or prayer. A hymn or song may be sung during the act of worship. The “act of collective worship” happens during the prayer, song or during any point in the assembly when children are asked to reflect or take part in a spiritual way.

Class based acts of collective worship both in EYFS and KS1 & 2 may take a variety of forms including circle time, a story, an activity outside, asking questions, gathering information, a class discussion, role play, short video clip and will all have a moment of quiet reflection or prayer relating to the focus of the assembly.

The act of collective worship may also include important teaching time embracing the whole curriculum but particularly RE, SMSC, personal and social and health education, PSHE, citizenship, British values and multi-cultural education. The act of collective worship is also important for establishing the school’s ethos and values and defining the school’s expectations in terms of behaviour and attitudes to learning.

Although parents have the right to withdraw children from the collective act of worship and RE we hope that our assemblies are inclusive and that children of any faith can feel comfortable as part of them. Our assemblies reflect our modern multi-faith society and also recognize that many of our children have no particular religion. We are aware that many families who would in the past been part of a Christian tradition may no longer have any religious life and that school may be their children’s only contact with religious ideas. We recognize our responsibility to put children in touch with their spiritual heritage and to give them an opportunity to believe in something greater than themselves. We welcome visitors of all faiths to lead our assemblies. At times of the moment of reflection or prayer, pupils are asked to join in they wish to or be respectful of those who do wish to join in.

Our assemblies and religious teaching are expected to be broadly Christian while encompassing other faiths. The Christian content will be implicit – as in moral teaching reflecting Christian values often shared by other belief systems or explicit – as in the life teachings of Jesus, the main Christian festivals and practices of the Christian church. Teaching children about other religions is an opportunity to emphasise understanding and tolerance and the many common facets of all faiths.

We encourage children to take an active part in the assemblies through taking part in role play, singing songs, choosing and reading reflections and prayers, presenting work, answering questions and receiving awards.

We have children assembly monitors who monitor behaviour and encourage participation during collective worship.

This policy was informed by reference to Essex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education ‘Guidance on Collective Worship in Schools’