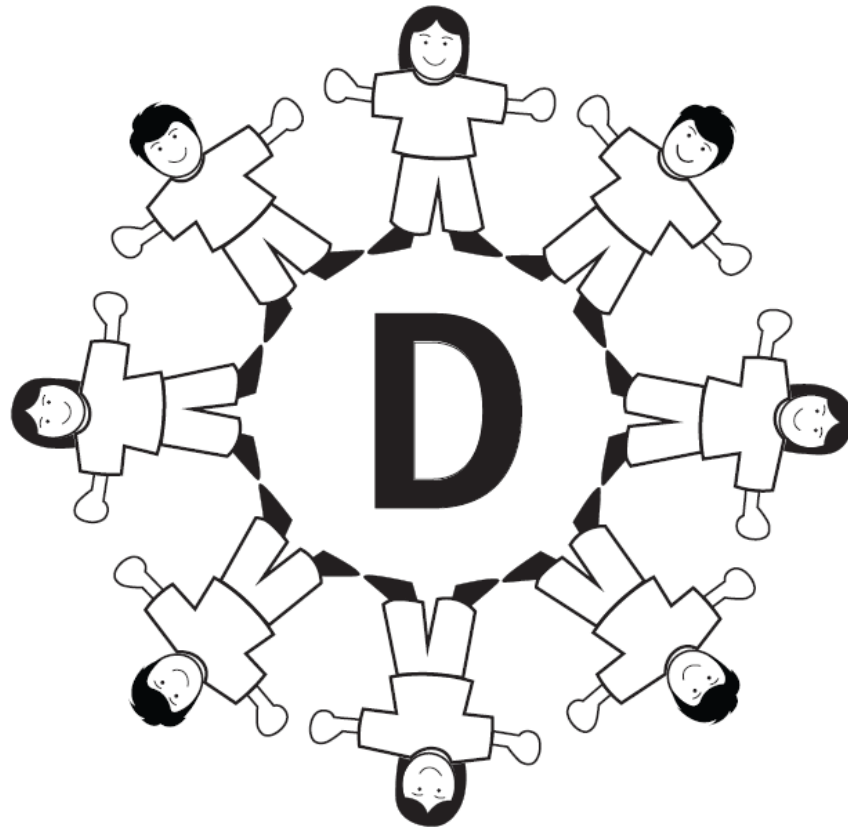


Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School



Collective Worship Policy

May 2026

1. Introduction

It is a legal requirement that all registered school-age pupils take part in an act of collective worship each day.

In line with the Education Reform Act (1988), acts of collective worship must be *“wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”* for the majority of the time. They must also be *“appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.”*

The community within Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School is predominantly of the Christian faith. The second largest group is those of no religion. In addition, there are children and families who follow the Islamic, Hindu and Sikh faiths.

The school recognises that children come from a range of backgrounds and beliefs. It is therefore not the practice of the school to preach to or convert children. Collective worship is planned and delivered in a manner that is sensitive and respectful of the individual faiths and beliefs represented within the school community.

At Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School, collective worship is broadly Christian but is distinct from corporate worship. The school has due regard to Nottinghamshire County Council guidance on Religious Education, collective worship and SACRE when planning worship opportunities.

Collective worship is inclusive and provides opportunities to acknowledge, celebrate and reflect upon major religious festivals and holy days.

2. Aims and purpose of Collective Worship

Nottinghamshire County Council describes collective worship as:

- an inclusive educational activity involving pupils of any faith or none
- distinct from corporate worship, which is specific to a particular faith or denomination

Through high-quality collective worship, the school seeks to contribute to pupils’:

- spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- understanding of shared values
- sense of belonging and community

At Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School, collective worship aims to:

- promote a sense of unity and community
- develop awareness of British Values through the school’s values
- support children in reflecting on what is important in life

3. Principles of Collective Worship

Collective worship at Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School:

- provides opportunities for reflection on beliefs, values and behaviour
- allows pupils to explore a range of beliefs
- celebrates shared values and achievements
- encourages thoughtful and reflective approaches to life
- supports understanding of right and wrong
- promotes responsibility, relationships and citizenship
- respects cultural diversity
- provides opportunities for worship and spiritual reflection

4. Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place daily as part of assemblies. Assemblies may involve the whole school or groups of pupils and provide opportunities to reflect on shared themes, issues and celebrations.

Assembly themes are planned and published at the beginning of each term and may include:

- school values and whole-school priorities
- national and historical events
- religious festivals from Christianity and other faiths
- relationships, behaviour and wellbeing
- personal development and health

Assemblies are planned to be:

- inclusive
- educational
- age-appropriate
- calm and reflective
- relevant to pupils' experiences

Elements used may include:

- stories and readings
- music and singing

- moments of reflection
- drama, media and pupil participation

Assemblies are led by the Headteacher, teaching staff and invited visitors. Assemblies take place daily from **10:30am–10:50am**, with a longer celebration assembly held weekly.

5. Prayer and Reflection

There is no statutory specification as to the content of collective worship.

Pupils are offered opportunities for quiet reflection, which may include prayer. Participation in prayer is **voluntary**, and pupils are encouraged to engage in a way that is appropriate to their own beliefs.

6. Community Links

The school maintains links with local churches and the wider community, including New Cross Church, Skegby Methodist Church and St Andrew's Church.

Visitors from the community may be invited to lead assemblies or share experiences. Celebrations such as Harvest and Christmas are held in school, with charitable donations supporting local food banks and community organisations.

7. Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Staff also have the right to withdraw.

Where withdrawal occurs, appropriate alternative arrangements will be made, and pupils will be supervised and provided with suitable activities.

8. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that collective worship is delivered in line with this policy.

This policy is reviewed every two years or sooner if legislative or school changes require it.

Policy written by L Radford and amended by H Claxton – May 2026

Policy adopted: September 2019

Policy reviewed: April 2022, May 2024, May 2026

Policy due to reviewed: May 2028