

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Collective worship contributes to the life of the school and all its members by giving opportunities for reflection, contributing to personal, spiritual growth and the development of an awareness of community.

- It is an expression of the ethos and shared life of the school community. The school will wish to ensure that collective worship is conducted in such a way that children's participation in acts of worship such as prayer is invited and voluntary rather than expected without questioning. Worship should be planned to be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of all pupils.
- Occasionally a parent may wish to exercise the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. In this case the school may wish to try to discuss the matter with parents to make sure their request is based on a clear understanding of what school worship involves and also to make arrangements for the supervision of the child.
- Teachers have similar rights but would, if they exercised them, miss out on the sense of community generated by effective collective worship.
- It is a legal requirement that the right of withdrawal should be mentioned in the school brochure.
- Further information see Collective Worship Revisited - <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/media/file/CollWorRevisit.pdf> or contact the Adviser for Religious Education, Sue Ward, on 01480 376241 or at susan.ward@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.
- Clerk to SACRE: Lucia Hawes, email: lucia.hawes2@peterborough.gov.uk