



Zaytouna Primary School

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY
2024 - 2026**

Philosophical Statement for Collective Worship

Collective worship is a fundamental part of the Islamic faith. Not only does it instil values such as brotherhood, equality and unity, but it also gives us a beautiful opportunity to slow down our busy lives and to pause and reflect. Collective worship is vital to ensure the spiritual health and wellbeing of our Zaytouna Primary School community. Regardless of whether one follows the Islamic faith or not, we can all agree it is important to make time in our day for gratitude, meditation and self-reflection. Collective worship within our diverse school provides everyone the perfect opportunity to gather and to feel the joy of coming together - united in our love for peace and harmony.

There is a Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) where he is reported to have said:

“Prayer in congregation is better than prayer alone by twenty-seven degrees”

Sahih Bukhari 619.

As such, collective worship is an integral part of the Islamic faith, whereby we can appreciate gratitude, mindfulness and self-reflection in a communal way.

Benefits of collective worship:

Collective worship at Zaytouna Primary School gives children and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to Allah / God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Affirm Islamic values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Islamic calendar.

Legal Requirements:

As set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 70, we recognise the legal requirement that there is a daily act of worship for all children. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education. As an Islamic-faith school, we provide collective worship in accordance with the tenets and practices of Islam.

At Zaytouna Primary School, as with any Free School, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

Withdrawal:

Parents

Parents can withdraw their child(ren) from collective worship if they wish to do so. They could ask for them to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship. Parents will be requested to discuss reason(s) for withdrawal with someone from school and put their withdrawal request in writing:

- The elements of worship they would object to
- If they will allow the child(ren) to present during the collective worship, but not take part
- What the child(ren) should be doing if they can't be present during the collective worship

There will be supervision for any children withdrawn from collective worship.

Headteacher

A Headteacher has the right to withdraw from an act of daily collective worship, but still has a duty to organise it. The Headteacher can ask another member of staff, or recruit someone external, to deliver the act of collective worship.

Teachers

Teachers have the right to withdraw from an act of daily collective worship, but still have the duty to supervise children during collective worship e.g. performing the prayers.

We have high expectations for children's behaviour and conduct during collective worship. However, if children performing prayer are distracting others during prayer 'Salah' then the teacher has the right to withdraw the child from the prayer. The child who is causing disturbance must then perform the prayer individually under the supervision of a member of staff.

Timing for the collective worship:

At Zaytouna Primary School, children can perform 'Dhuhur' mid-day prayer and 'Jumaa' prayer in school, which organised as follows:

Monday – Thursday: LKS2 collective worship: the congregation for 'Dhuhr' prayer begins at 12:55 and generally lasts for 15 minutes. It will take place in prayer hall. In case of music lessons, which often takes place in the prayer hall, children will perform the prayer, in congregation in their classrooms under the supervision of class teachers. One nominated child according to a weekly prayer duty timetable, will lead the prayer.

Monday – Thursday: UKS2 collective worship: the congregation for 'Dhuhr' prayer begins at 1:15 and generally lasts for 15 minutes. It will take place in prayer hall. In case of music lessons, which often takes place in the prayer hall, children will perform the prayer, in congregation in their classrooms under the supervision of class teachers. One nominated child according to a weekly prayer duty timetable, will lead the prayer.

Fridays: Year 2, KS2 and a rolling rota of EYFS and Year 1 classes collective worship: the congregation for 'Jumaa' prayer begins at 13:20 and generally lasts for 20 minutes. It will take place in the dining hall. Children will listen to a 'Khutba' speech then perform the Jumaa prayer under the supervision of class teachers.

Monday and Friday assembly:

Assemblies are an important part of Zaytouna Primary School life. In addition to the daily act of collective worship (prayers), we hold a collective worship, which takes place during weekly assemblies on Monday and Friday, where children read collectively 'Surah al fatihah', often led by nominated prayer leaders. A collective worship song is also sung.

Collective worship themes and content:

Collective worship themes and content is developed to ensure a broad range of topics are covered. These complement learning that takes place in PSHE and religious education. Themes around safeguarding, safety and British values are planned throughout the year, as well as marking key dates and events within the Islamic calendar. Themes for collective worship are shared with staff and is accessible on the staff shared drive. Materials used during collective worship are also saved electronically on the staff shared drive, enabling staff to revisit the material in class, or at a much later date. Each theme for collective worship is accompanied by a hadith, a quote from the Qur'an or work from a celebrated Islamic scholar. This is quality assured by a member of our Qur'an and Islamic Studies team. Themes are shared with parents via Class Dojo, so that this can be discussed at home.

Evaluation of collective worship:

Pupil and staff voice is used to evaluate acts of collective worship and assemblies. This forms part of the school's ongoing work to ensure all aspects of school life are relevant and meaningful. Pupil Prayer Leaders capture pupil voice electronically – either through sound or video recordings. Evidence from pupil and staff voice is reviewed periodically, enabling improvements to be made.

Accessibility:

All children at Zaytouna have an entitlement to take part in assemblies and acts of collective worship. Ensuring inclusion in these important parts of school life is achieved by: using loop amplifiers for those with hearing need; ensuring the duration of assemblies and collective worship is proportionate to age and stage of the audience; ensuring materials presented enable children to understand e.g. use of dual coding and images, clear layout, fonts and colour schemes, as well as ensuring adults can support individuals throughout.

Visitors:

Visitors are welcomed into school to lead assemblies and acts of collective worship. They play an important role in ensuring our children develop awareness of those from different faiths, working backgrounds and achievements. Each visitor is personally communicated with by the collective worship leader. They are briefed on school policy and the aims for collective worship. Themes are discussed and suggestions are made as to the content of each assembly and act of collective worship.

Collective worship with other schools (of other faiths):

Values at Zaytouna Primary School are often in line with the values of other faith schools such as truth, justice and forgiveness. Many schools work together to plan and deliver acts of worship that are invitational, reflective and engaging. As there is plenty of flexibility in the provision of collective worship, children at Zaytouna primary school could share other faith school in their collective worship ceremonies without compromising their Islamic beliefs. This gives children an opportunity to reflect on their identities and to reflect on the character of Allah / God and on the teachings of Islam in this regard.