

## Good Practice that Supports SMSC Through Daily Collective Worship

1. Consult pupils on the content of collective worship so that it is meaningful and relevant
2. Consult parents on their expectations about the content of the collective worship
3. Develop a yearly plan setting out major festivals and focus weeks that encourages respect for different faiths and cultures\*
4. Develop a four-year plan that would ensure that a variety of festivals from faiths are explored for every child as appropriate\*
5. Ensure that staff have had the training to feel comfortable in delivering a daily act of collective worship
6. After consulting with staff, pupils and parents, write a policy for daily collective worship and post it on the school website
7. Invite members of the local faith communities to take part in collective worship
8. Ensure that pupils have the opportunities to reflect and question what has taken place during collective worship

\* Church schools should follow their Diocese's advice on the content of their collective worship.



## Other leaflets available in this series

**'Teaching about Gender Identity and Sexuality in Religious Education: Advice for Headteachers and Governors'**

**'Guidance for Governors on Supporting SMSC through RE'**

**'Guidance for Secondary Schools on Supporting SMSC through RE'**

For further help and information, please contact:  
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## Guidance for Headteachers and Governors on the Value of Collective Worship to Support SMSC



Cambridgeshire  
Standing Advisory Council on  
Religious Education



## The Value of SMSC and Collective Worship

Everything we do in our schools should contribute to helping children and young people to be confident and resilient, with the skills and positive attitudes they need to be happy and successful in our diverse county and rapidly changing world.



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) is not an extra 'add on'. It lies at the heart of school improvement and strategies to close gaps and raise attainment.

SMSC should be a whole-school approach, linked to the school's ethos and values. It will result in a broad and balanced curriculum.

Good collective worship can both benefit from and support RE but it is not the same thing as RE.

### The Benefits of Collective Worship

1. It allows for a reflective approach to life; a time to reflect quietly and make an internal response, if appropriate, on God or ideas of an ultimate reality.
2. It creates an ethos for the school and affirms the values of the school and a chance to celebrate successes of the school.
3. It makes the school part of the wider society through learning to respect and understand others.
4. It develops a sense of belonging and community and allows people to share what is important to everyone.
5. It develops an awareness of universal moral principles.



## The Law on Daily Act of Collective Worship

All maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship for all of their registered pupils. This collective worship usually takes place within daily assembly, but can also be done within individual classes or groups of children.

For community, voluntary-controlled and foundation schools without a religious character, it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to arrange the daily collective worship after consulting the governing body. The majority of daily acts of collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

For voluntary-aided, voluntary-controlled and foundation schools with a religious character, it is the responsibility of the governing body to arrange the daily collective worship after consulting the Headteacher. Worship should be according to the founding trustees' instrument of government of the school. Most schools in Cambridgeshire are Church schools, which will offer daily Christian collective worship which may include elements from their founding Church. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

Under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 parents have the statutory right to withdraw their children from acts of Collective Worship at all maintained schools, including faith schools. Parents are not obliged to give a reason for requesting withdrawal.

The parental right to withdraw a child should be freely exercisable and the school must give effect to any such request. Sixth-form pupils at mainstream schools and maintained special schools are able to withdraw themselves from collective worship, without the need for a parent's permission. Section 55 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 amended section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to ensure the right of sixth-form pupils to be excused from attendance at religious worship if they request so.

## Useful Resources on Collective Worship

### 'Guidelines for Schools: Collective Worship in Cambridgeshire' -

*Guidance from Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE):*

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20076/children-and-families-practitioners-and-providers-information/279/children-and-families-working-with-partners/3](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20076/children-and-families-practitioners-and-providers-information/279/children-and-families-working-with-partners/3)

### Diocese of Ely: RE and Collective Worship -

*Various resources and guidance documents from the Ely Diocese Schools (Education) Team:*

[www.elyeducation.org](http://www.elyeducation.org)

### 'Collective Worship Revisited - A paper for all who are or should be interested in Collective Worship' -

*Guidance from NASACRE and AREIAC available on the Cambridgeshire Education Portal*

*(Religious Education and SACRE Resource Library):*

[www.learn-together.org.uk/services/CAS/Pages/RE.aspx](http://www.learn-together.org.uk/services/CAS/Pages/RE.aspx)

### SMSC Online -

*Comprehensive support website and resources for the integration of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and values across all aspects of school life:*

[www.smisc.org.uk](http://www.smisc.org.uk)

### 'Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development of Pupils - Departmental

**Advice for Independent Schools, Academies and Free Schools'** (Department for Education, November 2013):

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-the-smisc-development-of-pupils-in-independent-schools](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-the-smisc-development-of-pupils-in-independent-schools)

### 'Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools - Departmental Advice for Maintained

**Schools'** (Department for Education, November 2014):

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smisc](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smisc)