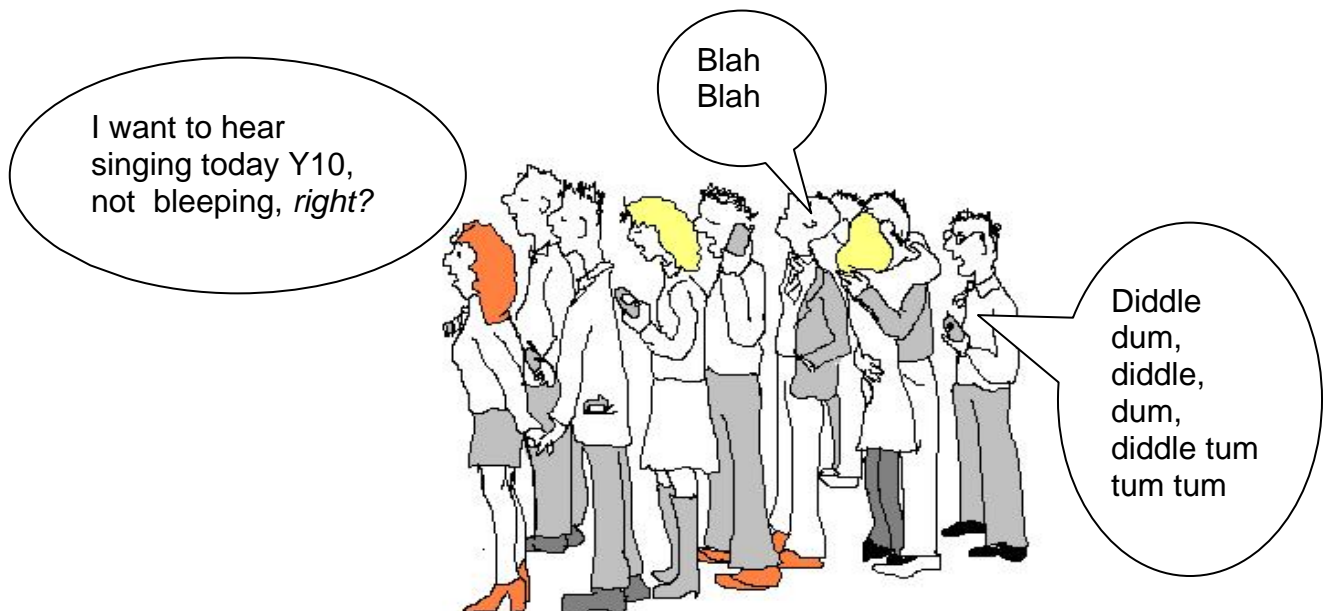


## Principles of Collective Worship

Best practice ensures that Collective Worship:

- should be inclusive in response to the needs of all pupils
- should reinforce the sense of community in the school
- should be organised to enable the sharing of whole school values
- should reflect and contribute to the ethos of the school
- does not require belief on the part of the leader or the participants
- should be 'broadly Christian', implying the inclusion of other religions and ways of thinking
- should have breadth and balance
- should be planned and coordinated appropriately
- should be evaluated and reviewed regularly.



“The average 16 year old will have spent 250 hours of schooling participating in Collective Worship.”

## The nature of worship

Worship means different things to different people. However, worship has two specific focuses:

- The response of people towards a supreme being in ways that might include prayer, action and adoration.
- The special reverence and high regard which people give to those beliefs, values, ideals and achievements which they take to be of ultimate worth and of lasting significance. This includes recognition of special people, their efforts, struggles and their response to suffering.

**Collective Worship**, as distinct from **Corporate Worship** is essentially a public activity in which groups of people are invited to engage, expressing, to a greater or lesser degree, values and beliefs shared by them. These values and beliefs are expressed in spiritual and/or religious terms derived from significant elements of the background and context that they have in common.

Provided that an act of worship reflects the tradition of Christian belief it need not contain only Christian material. It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ. Worship that consistently avoids reference to Jesus within the spoken or written word would not be recognised as being 'mainly Christian'.

Assemblies, including hymn practice, are distinct activities and should not be considered as an alternative to Collective Worship. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear.



*Being together develops a stronger cohesion and community ethos*

In order to meet the two focuses mentioned above, Collective Worship must aim to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- worship God
- experience prayer, meditation and silence
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs and those of others
- appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- think about the needs of others
- develop a sense of community spirit, promoting a common ethos and shared values
- reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school
- celebrate the various achievements of the community that are held to be of worth
- appreciate and develop positive values.

The manner of presentation of an act of Collective Worship should encourage pupils' participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.

Over a period of time (preferably an academic year) schools should seek to ensure that each of these aims is reflected through the acts of Collective Worship that are provided.

*Because the whole school is assembled together there is a special feeling of togetherness and sharing*

*Don't be a sage on the stage but a guide on the side*



*Worship Works...It makes you feel like you are a family*

*Worship Works... When children take part*