



Education Trust

Inspiring the individuals of today, for a better society tomorrow,
"Aspire, Belong, Collaborate"

POLICY STATEMENT ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Review Frequency	Annual
Reviewed	19.12.2025
Next Review	December 2027
Agreed by Trustees	19 th December 2025



AIMS

To encourage the children to respect the religious, spiritual, cultural and moral values of others and to consider thoughtfully their own attitudes, values and beliefs.

RATIONALE

The Education Reform Act requires schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils. Within the 3 schools of the Riviera Education Trust (Oldway, Shiphay and Roselands), collective worship is to be “wholly or mainly Christian” and “not to be distinctive of any denomination” and takes into account the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.

PURPOSE

The Riviera Education Trust serves pupils from a wide diversity of backgrounds so it is important that acts of worship are an inclusive activity.

Collective worship should seek to:

- Offer children opportunities to explore and share beliefs.
- Consider the importance of prayer and silence.
- Think about others in developing a sense of community.
- Consider the relevance of beliefs and ideas in relation to their own lives.
- Put into practice the ethos of the school.
- Celebrate the achievements of our community.

WORSHIP

The word “worship” has at least two distinct meanings:

- Adoration offered by believers to a Supreme Being
- Concerns, concepts, principles, conduct worthy of celebrations as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit

The Riviera Education Trust attempts to provide opportunities for both.

GUIDELINES

Acts of worship in Riviera Education Trust schools should seek to:

- reflect, express, affirm or challenge commonly accepted personal and social values



- provide experiences so that those with a commitment to a religious life may worship adequately without violating the integrity of those without a religious commitment
- provide experiences for those not committed to religious beliefs without violating the integrity of those who have religious beliefs

Opportunities should be taken to sensitively evoke those senses and feelings from which it might be said that worship most naturally arises:

- sense of beauty
- sense of wonder and awe
- feeling of pride
- sense of pity
- feeling of shared sadness
- sense of shared loss
- sense of peace
- sense of thankfulness
- sense of stillness in the midst of a busy existence

Assemblies also provide opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate special things throughout the year
- a celebration of everyday things /sport /education /entertainment /music /hospitality /healing /helping
- sharing and experiencing differences
- building a sense of group identity
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- learning how to behave in a large social group
- learning how to perform in front of a group
- learning how to respond to a performance

Effective acts of collective worship are conducted within an educational context and are part of an appropriately planned programme which reflect the life and work of the school and local community. They should involve active participation of pupils and other members of the school community and should take place, wherever possible, in an inspiring atmosphere. The programme contains themes which during the course of the year centre around:

- religious festivals and special days
- annual events and anniversaries
- aspects of the school curriculum



- developments from classroom activities
- school values
- published assembly books and other literature

The school will, of course, respect the legal right of parents to withdraw pupils from Acts of Worship.

Teachers, including the Head of School, have the same right of withdrawal.

The Head of School is legally responsible for collective worship after consultation with the governing body and shares the planning and delivery with the SLT and the subject leader.

A daily act of worship is provided for all pupils and should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes. It should be so planned that pupils who do not come from Christian families should be able to join in and can be arranged at any time of the school day. Pupils have the opportunity to meet in various groups during the course of the week / term / year:

- class
- year group
- unit / team
- Key Stage
- School

A “best fit” approach to pupil’s groupings over the year takes account of:

- age
- focus of worship
- availability of accommodation

Pupils gain a great deal from representatives of various religions, charity agencies, parents, business partners and other adults participating in acts of worship. These visitors:

- are fully briefed beforehand by the Head of School or teacher responsible for the worship
- are aware that the teacher is ultimately responsible for the act of worship
- are aware that they are not allowed to offer invitations to attend out-of-school activities or distribute literature without permission from the Head of School

Pupils may visit some local churches and other places of worship during their time at school. The conduct of these trips will be in compliance with the LA guidance on school visits.

Resources for Collective Worship will be centrally based and available from the subject leader.



Staff development needs should be made known to the subject leader or in the usual way during the school improvement planning process.

DETAILS OF AMENDMENTS

September 2018

- Updated to include Shiphay Learning Academy

September 2019

- Updated to remove references to “Oldway” and replace with RET
- References to “Headteacher” replaced with “Head of School”.

May 2021

- General review.

September 2023

- General review.

January 2025

- General review

December 2025

- Reviewed, no amendments



