

## When is worship collective?

*If teachers are regularly absent from worship...can we really say that our school is reinforcing our whole school ethos?*

Worship Works when...

it makes you feel like you are a whole family...

it is best when the whole school comes together

Collective Worship should always be inclusive and take into account the background of the pupils, staff, parents, governors and the wider community.

### **Staff**

Consider the message we send out if teachers are regularly absent from worship. Can we really say that our school is worshipping as a school family and reinforcing our whole school ethos? Whilst the law safeguards teachers and pupils who choose not to be present on religious grounds, and there are always exceptional occasions, we should be aiming to provide worthwhile experiences for pupils and staff, making the very best use of their time.

Involving staff in leading acts of Collective Worship encourages their professional development. If there is anxiety over performing in front of peers, teachers might consider addressing a class, a year group or a key stage, before addressing the whole school.

### **Pupils**

Pupils are more likely to be engaged in worship if they are comfortably seated, without their bags and coats, and if they are involved in its planning and/or delivery. Participation increases their motivation, promotes self-esteem, enhances understanding and provides opportunities for their personal development.

### **Parents**

Involving parents, wherever possible and practical engenders a wider sense of community.

### **Governors**

Governors can feel an integral part of the school community when they are invited to be involved in Collective Worship.