



Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are to:

- provide an opportunity for children to participate and worship together;
- give opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- encourage participation and response;
- develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- promote a common ethos, with shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes
- prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion. Collective worship involves members of the school community coming together and actively participating in an assembly.

2.2 While most acts of worship in our school are mainly Christian in character, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all. We also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each morning assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly, a phase or a key stage assembly, or a class assembly. On some occasions, assemblies will be held in classrooms at appropriate times during the day and will be led by staff and learners.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully, and to participate fully. We create an appropriate

atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

- 3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher, senior leaders or other members of staff but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.
- 3.4 We have a set of assembly themes which are related to developing religious, social, moral and cultural understanding as well as encouraging children to develop values that link to being a good citizen. Much of this is underpinned by our school values and our links to the Rights Respecting Schools agenda. We also use assembly time to celebrate festivals as well as key people and events.
- 3.5 Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies also play an important part in promoting our school values: respect integrity, teamwork and enjoyment. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.
- 3.6 Each week there is a Birthday and Achievers Assembly in Key Stage 1 that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- 3.7 Each year group also presents a class assembly which gives them the opportunity to share their learning achievements from the term.
- 3.8 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements to accommodate these children. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role the RE Coordinator along with the Headteacher and governors.