

# Collective Worship Policy

Date Reviewed	<b>November 2017</b>
Signed	

**There are four main purposes to this policy:**

- To establish an entitlement for all pupils;
- To establish expectations for teachers throughout the school;
- To promote continuity and coherence across the school;
- To state the school's approaches to this area in order to promote public, and particularly parents' and carers', understanding of the delivery of collective worship.

## **Aims**

As a Church of England school our aims are:

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- To provide an opportunity for the children to consider the purpose and meaning of life;
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To provide an opportunity for calm reflection.

## **Collective Worship**

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together, as a class, year group or whole school.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be "*wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character,*" we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

- We endeavour to hold a daily act of collective worship in our school either in the form of a class collective worship, year group collective worship or clergy collective worship. These may include music, song, stories, shared experiences, readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection.
- We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

- The head teacher and other members of the staff normally conduct the act of collective worship, and local clergy or other representatives of local Trinitarian Churches regularly conduct them every week.
- We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We collaborate with the local clergy in advance with our planning. Sometimes themes reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Further opportunities for the children to reflect and investigate their beliefs are provided in curriculum areas such as, R.E, Literacy, Art, Science, PSHE and Music.
- Our collective worship also reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in collective worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. These collective worship offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that every individual is valued.
- We invite parents to our special Christmas celebration– which take place in St. Peter’s Church and there are also opportunities for parents to share in our achievements and graduation. Governors are welcome to attend our collective worship at any time.
- We take part in a Learning Community Candlemass service with Year 6 pupils as part of the transition programme.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

- We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

## **Monitoring & Reviewing**

- Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. There has been monitoring by the named school governor with responsibility for collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the ethos committee and the head teacher before reporting to the governors on collective worship within the school.