

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed: January 2023

Next Review: January 2028

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 All pupils in attendance at a maintained school must take part in an act of collective worship on each school day, where possible. The arrangements for this have been made by the head teacher, in consultation with the governing body. This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of collective worship in our school.
- 1.2 This school policy for collective worship reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff and has the full agreement of the governing body.
- 1.3 The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the head and all teaching staff.

2. NATURE

- 2.1 Collective worship should reflect something special or separate from ordinary activities and should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. It will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief as outlined in the 1988 Education Act.
- 2.2 Collective worship will continue to affirm and celebrate the shared values of our school.

3. AIMS

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- 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 teach children how to worship.

4 ENTITLEMENT

- 4.1 Collective worship will be offered to every pupil every day subject to the right of parents or guardians to withdraw their children.
- 4.2 If a parent requests that a pupil be wholly or partly excused from attendance at collective worship the school will comply with this request.
- 4.3 Pupils who are withdrawn need to be properly supervised. If supervision is difficult for the school to organise it may be necessary for the pupils to be withdrawn by parents from the premises at this time.
- 4.4 Teachers may withdraw from participation in collective worship but may be required to supervise children who are excused from attendance at collective worship.
- 4.5 Collective worship at our school will be mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- 4.6 It will be appropriate to the family background, age and aptitudes of pupils.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 The acts of collective worship of a broadly Christian character will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of a particular Christian denomination.
- 5.2 Collective worship will take place on the school premises. If the staff are of an opinion that an act of collective worship should, on a special occasion take place elsewhere they will make arrangements as they see appropriate, eg Harvest or Christmas at the RAF Church.
- 5.3 Those leading collective worship will follow a weekly theme and complete a record of each act of collective worship.
- 5.4 Each participating teacher will lead collective worship during the week.
- 5.5 Collective worship will offer opportunities to celebrate together, meditate together, enhance spiritual growth, affirm the individual, encourage reflection and explore beliefs and experiences.
- 5.6 The 'worshipping' activities that are frequently a part of collective worship are music, stories, prayer, reflection, drama and use of stimuli including pictures, artefacts and literature.
- 5.7 Acts of worship will begin with the children walking in quietly to introductory music to create a mood and to focus attention.
- 5.8 Resources for collective worship are kept in a central resource area.
- 5.9 Each member of staff will have a copy of the termly plan.
- 5.10 All pupils are entitled to an equal opportunity to participate in collective worship irrespective of issues of race, gender or disability. Opportunities should be taken to project an international understanding of the world.