



Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider SMSC framework
- to enable children to learn about Jesus and Holy Spirit;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs and respect the beliefs of others;
- 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.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of each school coming together and participating in collective worship. We expect all children to take an active part in the collective worship but make it clear in the School Brochures that parents have the right to withdraw their children. (see note 4.1 below) School staff are encouraged to join the children but are under no obligation to do so.

2.2 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 collective worship on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the schools.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship which includes the whole school.

3.2 We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We regard collective worship as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. This often includes a time of calm reflection when we ask them to listen carefully and to participate fully, including in prayer or drama (or to respect those around them who are praying) and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, a cross and a candle or other objects to focus the attention of the children.

- 3.3** The collective worship can be conducted by the Headteacher, and Heads of School, Teachers, other members of staff and a variety of local visitors including church clergy, lay ministers and readers.
- 3.4** We take the themes of our collective worship from the Values for Life programme as well as incorporating the festivals of the Christian calendar and other world faiths in our three year rolling plan. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the schools' curriculum. We plan our collective worship well in advance of the day they take place.
- 3.5** Our collective worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the collective worship by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship provides 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 schools, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.
- 3.6** Each term there may be particular collective worship times 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** Governors are welcome to attend collective worship at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the schools will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the collective worship. 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.
- 4.2** The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the Foundation school governors. Foundation governors also liaise with the Head/Lead teachers to monitor SIAMs which includes collective worship.
- 5.2** This policy will be reviewed every three years.

**Originally agreed by Staff and Governing Body – September 2013
Reviewed October 2017**