

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

- 1.1 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.

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 the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- 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 assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that may be represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organization of collective worship

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, this forms part of each morning assembly
- 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 participate fully in prayer/thought time and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere.
- 3.3 The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.
- 3.4 The themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, this is based on PHSE/SEAL materials. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place. Assemblies are linked to the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar

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3.5 Friday assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies 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 all children are valued and all achievements are recognised

3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

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 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.

Signed: Helen Middleton

Date: November 2015