



## Collective Worship Policy

### **Rationale**

Collective Worship in Local Authority schools is a statutory requirement and should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character and should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief”. Education Act 1993

In the Federation Collective Worship is delivered through our School Assembly Programme. Children are given the opportunity to take part in a variety of worship and educational experiences. Collective Worship also celebrates the ethos and values of our schools.

### **Aims**

- To reflect the broadly Christian nature of our society.
- To stimulate the children's awareness of the natural world.
- To develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children in the context of shared experiences and caring for others.
- To develop respect for the beliefs, culture and values of others.
- To celebrate achievements and special occasions.
- To provide opportunities for worship, celebration and reflection.
- To offer the opportunity to question, wonder, respond and learn.

### **Guidelines**

- Assemblies will reflect the broad tradition of Christian belief and include key Christian festivals.
- Material from other religions will be included and cultural diversity celebrated.
- Themes will reflect those being developed in school, for example, links with the RE and PSHE curriculum including British Values.
- Visitors are invited to contribute to our Assembly Programme (and school staff are always present).
- Children are encouraged to participate and share ideas. They are given the opportunity to be reflective and to experience stillness.
- Parents may ask that their children be withdrawn from assembly and they need to inform the Headteacher, in writing, of this request before this is effective.

### **Conclusion**

Our Collective Worship policy supports the development of the children's self-awareness and respect for themselves and others. It contributes significantly to our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **The Legal Requirements**

This policy reflects the statutory requirements of the 1993 Education Act i.e.

- i) To provide a programme of collective worship through whole school, half school or in class assemblies which are not distinctive of tradition and practice or particular religious denominations.
- ii) Parents have a right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. Teachers have the same right of withdrawal. Parents and teachers need to make a formal request to the head in writing to withdraw from assemblies.
- iii) In community schools, such as ours, collective worship is to be "wholly or mainly broadly Christian".

**Adopted by Governing Body:**

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Date to be reviewed by the Governing Body:**

**February 2019**