

# Collective Worship Policy



**Adopted January 2017**

**Reviewed December 2018**

## **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;
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them;
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school;
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus;
- Acknowledge diversity

## **2 Collective worship**

2.1 Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an 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 others.

2.1 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

2.2 Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

2.3 The 3-fold values of Christian worship are: -

- Teaching the stories of Jesus;
- Building on these to teach Christian values;
- Bridges between school/community/churches

## **3. Organisation of collective worship**

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.

3.2 A long term Collective Worship plan is in place. A Collective Worship Timetable is written and shared with staff at the beginning of each term. The Head of School manages the Collective Worship timetable and the planning of the theme of Collective Worship at St Nicholas C of E Primary School. Copies of the timetable are provided for all staff so that all staff are aware of the breadth, balance, continuity and coverage of Collective Worship at School.

- 3.3** The Head of School conducts assemblies weekly, in addition other staff, local clergy and other representatives of local religious groups also lead assemblies throughout the year. Pupils also lead assemblies, based on the value for the term or significant events.
- 3.4** Our Celebration Assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. Celebration Assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- 3.5** We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship and Celebration Assemblies at any time.
- 3.6** We welcome parents' attendance at our Celebration Assembly (every Friday)
- 3.7** Each class has a Christian Values Reflection book which allows the children to reflect on the messages and themes of the week. Class teachers facilitate the reflection during Class Worship which provides opportunities for children to extend their understanding, reflections, prayer and thought processes.
- 3.8** There is a whole school Collective Worship Reflections Book which allows children across the school to reflect on the day's Collective Worship.
- 3.9** Pupils learn and say together from memory The Lord's Prayer.
- 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 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.
- 4.2** The Head of School keeps a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.
- 5. Monitoring and review**
- 5.1** It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head of School before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.