

## **Collective Worship Policy**

**Policy Approved by Governing Body: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Review Date: September 2025**

*'Learning Together with Kind Hearts and Determined Minds'*

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 We want the statutory daily act of collective worship to play an important role within the ethos/culture of our school. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all of our children to 'enjoy and achieve' and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.
- 1.2 Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender and so will support our school's policy on equality. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately, and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

### **2 Aims:**

- 2.1 To provide pupils with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood);
- 2.2 To give pupils opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian (and other faith traditions) stories, events and festivals and how these might affect their lives;
- 2.3 To offer experiences and opportunities for pupils to join in with, and respond to, a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs;
- 2.4 To promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship.

These aims mean that our collective worship programme is such that we can include all our school community unless they choose to be withdrawn.

### **3 Collective Worship and the Law**

- 3.1 We comply with legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s) 'on grounds of conscience'. This is made clear through the information contained in our prospectus. Parents who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to make an appointment with the

Headteacher. If a child is withdrawn from collective worship, they are supervised by an adult outside of the hall/room and are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.

- 3.2 Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'.
- 3.3 The majority of our acts of collective worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in Kent and in Great Britain.

#### **4 Collective Worship and Staff**

- 4.1 Teachers (and sometimes teaching assistants/supervisors) attend collective worship which takes place either in the school hall or in classrooms.
- 4.2 If an individual teacher feels their own beliefs might be compromised by our programme of collective worship they can discuss this with the Headteacher as they do have the legal right not to attend collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'.

#### **5 Collective Worship Organisation**

- 5.1 We hold at least one act of collective worship every day, although these take different flexible formats.
- 5.2 In KS2 the whole Key Stage gathers every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the hall.
- 5.3 In KS1 the whole Key Stage gathers every Wednesday and Friday in the hall.
- 5.4 This means that the whole school gathers for collective worship every Friday.
- 5.5 At Christmas time, where possible, Y5/6 present to parents and the school at Christmas Collective Worship presentation in the local church.
- 5.6 It is the responsibility of staff leading acts of collective worship to ensure that the content and form of delivery is accessible to all those present.
- 5.7 It will be ensured that over time the following opportunities are provided:
- The use of the Bible and other sacred texts as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced. Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate;
  - The marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days;
  - Opportunities for Christian children to pray 'The Lord's Prayer' as an important traditional Christian prayer periodically and that others listen to it respectfully.
  - A prayer is said before each of the two lunch time sittings.
- 5.8 The RE subject leader, senior leaders and the Headteacher will work in conjunction to oversee collective worship within the school.
- 5.9 Key themes for collective worship will be discussed between the RE leader, Headteacher and senior leaders to ensure they are reflective, broadly Christian in nature and offer spiritual development.

#### **6 Whole School/Key Stage Acts of Collective Worship**

- 6.1 We aim to create an atmosphere of interest, reflection and relevance. Collective worship can take many forms, will involve the exploration of a range of emotions, can be loud and energetic or calm and quiet. Music is an important part of collective worship.

- 6.2 The usual format consists of an input from the collective worship leader, an appropriate hymn or song, and a time of prayer and/or quiet reflection. We encourage children's active engagement through, for example, questioning and drama.
- 6.3 The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included within the slot. They usually take between 20 and 30 minutes.
- 6.4 Visitors are both invited and welcomed. There are regular visits from Christian based groups, e.g. local clergies, and Family Trust. Other visitors from a range of charities also attend, with their presentations being complemented by our collective worship.

## **7 Health, Safety and Well-being**

- 7.1 In collective worship we follow the school's policies relating to health, safety and well-being. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment.
- 7.2 In line with our 'e-safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked by the leader prior to their use in any act of collective worship.
- 7.3 In the event of fire all pupils will be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place.
- 7.4 Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children/young people.

## **8 Resources**

- 8.1 Some resources, including age-appropriate DVD material and PowerPoints, is available to support teachers and pupils with collective worship and is mostly stored on the curriculum network.

## **9 In-Service Training**

- 9.1 External support from the Advisory Service Kent is drawn on as appropriate and as/when identified through our School Improvement Plan.

## **10 Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 10.1 As part of the school's self-evaluation it is the role of the RE Subject Leader, senior leaders and the Headteacher to monitor individual acts of collective worship and feed back to the staff responsible.
- 10.2 Governors who visit collective worship are invited to provide feedback to the Headteacher.
- 10.3 A worship evaluation form is available from the RE Subject leader who will complete this each term. It will also be available to Governors, phase leaders and the Headteacher.

## **13. Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the RE Subject Leader/Headteacher and FGB every three years.