

# Dry Drayton CE (C) Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

### **1 Aims and purpose**

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

to provide an opportunity for the children and other members of the school community to worship God;

to enable and encourage those present in collective worship to consider spiritual and moral issues;

to enable those present in collective worship to consider and explore their own beliefs;

to encourage participation and response;

to develop in the school community a sense of community spirit;

to promote a common church school ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;

to demonstrate to children the different elements of worship;

to provide an opportunity to engage with the Anglican cycle of worship and the worship of the local church community;

to encourage children who wish to do so to take an active role in leading collective worship in the school.

### **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 sharing a worship experience. We encourage everyone to take an active part in worship subject to the right of withdrawal (see paragraph below) and in line with their own personal beliefs .

2.2 In Church of England schools all collective worship is Christian and takes into account the practices and teachings of the Church of England. We normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

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

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly, although on Tuesday & Thursday mornings we hold separate KS1 and KS2 assemblies. Friday afternoons are our 'Achievement' assembly, where we celebrate achievements in and out of school.

3.2 We conduct collective worship 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate appropriately. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and other aids to help children focus.

3.3 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct collective worship, but every fortnight, collective worship is normally conducted by a member of the local clergy team or one of our Foundation Governors.

3.4 We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum (e.g. SEAL). We plan our collective worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place using planned topics.

3.5 We encourage our parents and governors to attend our collective worship as frequently as possible, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support our children.

3.6 Approximately three times a year, at major festivals, collective worship takes place in the church and parents and governors are invited to attend.

#### **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 collective 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 Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

#### **5 Monitoring and review**

5.1 It is the responsibility of the foundation governors of the school to support and monitor the collective worship provision. It is currently the role of a nominated school governor, who is also a licensed Anglican Lay Reader, Mrs Amanda Norman, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship particularly. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on collective worship. \_

Signed: Kate Dorrell

Headteacher

Signed: Amanda Norman

Governor