

## 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;
- 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; the purpose is to show reverence. 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** The 1988 Education Reform Act, states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', however this school has a determination from SACRE (**S**tanding **A**dvisory **C**ouncil for **R**eligious **E**ducation) which allows us to conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

**2.3** Our assemblies reflect religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### 3 Organisation of collective worship

**3.1** We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes the form of either a whole-school assembly or key-stage assembly or class circle time.

**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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully and appropriately.

**3.3** The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups could conduct them instead. We also invite carefully selected guest speakers, such as representatives from faith and community groups.

**3.4** We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of a range of faiths and we reflect the festivals and events of four of the main religions: Christian, Islamic, Hindu and Jewish calendars. We try to ensure they are celebrated equally and represent and reflect the wider community, not just what is reflected in the school community. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

**3.5** Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. 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 school's ethos which is; that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Carlton Vale Infants School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

**3.6** Parents and governors are invited to attend special assemblies, such as end of term celebrations.

#### **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. However because of the inclusive nature of the school and the SACRE Determination that is in place we have had no requests for withdrawal from Collective Worship.

**4.2** The headteacher would keep a record of any children who are withdrawn 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 headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and Collective Worship.

This policy/document was reviewed by: Staff and governors

Signed ..... Chair of Curriculum Committee

Signed .....Chair of Governors

Date: Autumn term 2020

The next review date is Autumn 2024