



Collective Worship Policy

DATE APPROVED: 24th June 2016

APPROVED BY: Teaching and Learning Committee

DATE TO BE REVIEWED: 8th March 2022

Collective Worship Policy

1.0 Aims and Purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- 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 the school values of; reasoning, reflectiveness, resourcefulness, resilience and responsibility.

2.0 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 participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the 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'. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 Themes are chosen for each week and these incorporate significant religious (from all main world religions), national and global events and many have an overarching theme linked to our school values.

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

3.0 Organization of Collective Worship

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

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 in thought and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

3.4 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children based on our 5 Rs. 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 schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Naphill & Walters Ash School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.5 We invite parents to special assemblies 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 the achievements of our children.

3.6 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4.0 Right of Withdrawal

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

Approval

Approved at the full governing body meeting held on 24th June 2016

Date for review: 8th March 2022

Committee Responsible: Teaching & Learning