



# **Collective Worship Policy**

February 2017

## **Collective Worship Policy**

The Collective Worship Policy at Brookhill Leys Primary School follows the guidance of:

- Circular 1-94 Religious Education and Collective Worship 'On the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. (ERA 1988, Education Act 1993).

ERA (1988) and Education Act (1993) state that acts of worship may contain certain elements drawn from a number of different faiths, but that within each term, the majority of acts or worship must be wholly or mainly of a Christian character.

At Brookhill Leys Primary School our collective worship is broadly Christian but is distinct from corporate worship within a faith group. However, it is fundamental that collective worship be flexible to encompass the age, aptitude and background of all the pupils at the school. Therefore, 'an act of worship which is "broadly Christian" need not contain Christian material only' (DFE 34).

Many beliefs that are broadly Christian are inclusive to other major world faiths. Examples are God, love, peace, good and evil, greed, poverty, charity, pollution, tolerance, co-operation, prejudice and morality. If a broad and flexible approach is used, collective worship will not affect the integrity, or compromise, anyone taking part at our school but may develop the spiritual awareness of every individual.

### **The Purpose of Collective worship**

Collective worship is for all pupils, every day at Brookhill Leys Primary School. It either forms a small part of an assembly or its entirety, or can be held in class. Collective worship has the potential to unite the whole school and therefore develop a sense of community. Collective worship is a part of Brookhill Leys school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every single person in the school community. During collective worship we are working towards creating experiences, which recognize the integrity and dignity of all members of the school community, both those who adopt a religious life-stance and those who do not. These experiences should be educational and stimulate the possibility of a person's inward reflection, which can lead them to the development of an outward, and open lifestyle in which they live harmoniously with others. We include faith groups local to school in Eastwood.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To provide opportunity for an experience of worship
- To reflect on the values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves in Eastwood and wider
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding.
- To embrace difference and celebrate everybody

### **Objectives of Collective Worship**

Collective worship in school should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship
- Reflect on moral issues
- Explore beliefs
- Experience a sense of wonder
- Experience common prayer
- Have a time for reflection and self-awareness
- Have a time to express their own feelings
- Develop a recognition of a Supreme Being and an awareness of religion
- Build a sense of community
- Make links with the wider community
- Celebrate joys and sorrows
- Develop an appreciation of other faiths
- Develop collegiate responsibility
- Experience and develop an awareness of different religions and cultures
- Value and celebrate minority cultures
- Develop knowledge of culture (i.e. composer of the week)

### **Principles of Assembly/Collective Worship**

- Assemblies should be inclusive
- Pupil centred, related to the pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
- They should acknowledge diversity
- Involve pupils as active participants
- They should match the needs of pupils
- They should foster a sense of community
- Assemblies should be educational
- They should be learning experiences
- Related to pupil's experiences
- Be properly planned
- Relate to other curriculum activities
- Provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides
- Have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- Be consistent with the aims of the school
- Assemblies should be spiritual, a time to be still and reflect a special time-conducive to worship
- Children should feel calm, relaxed and secure
- They should include opportunities for children to take part in a variety of spiritual opportunities
- They should include a variety of words, music and images
- A time for reflection
- Provide an opportunity for children to take part in worship

### **Prayer**

There is no specification about what collective worship should include. During collective worship pupils will be offered opportunities for reflection and this may also involve a prayer. When prayers are used children are invited to take part but it is their choice to do so "We are going to say a prayer now to our God. You may join in, or you may just want to sit quietly and have your own thoughts".

**The Law**

Collective worship is a legal requirement in maintained schools. The law requires that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a Christian character for the majority of the time. They must be appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.

**The right to withdraw pupils**

Parents have the right to withdraw their Child from acts of worship, Staff equally have the right to withdraw from collective worship. Arrangements would be made for children who have been withdrawn from collective worship. All children would be provided with appropriate class work and supervised on a rota basis.

The Education Reform Act does not define collective worship. At Brookhill Leys Primary School we focus on someone or something promoting spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of all children.

J Sainsbury