

# **Wickford Primary School** **Collective Worship Policy**

## **1 Aims and purpose**

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- to provide children with the opportunity to worship God;
  - 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 about worship.

## **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 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', at times we base our assemblies on the teachings of Jesus and traditions of the Christian Church. 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 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **3 Organization of collective worship**

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each assembly. Assemblies are organised as follows:

### Lower School:

Monday	Whole school led by HT or Deputy
Tuesday	Singing
Wednesday	Whole School
Thursday	Whole School
Friday	Whole School – Celebration

### Upper School:

Monday	Whole school
Tuesday	Whole School singing
Wednesday	House assembly
Thursday	Class assembly
Friday	Whole school/class assembly

**3.2** We conduct assemblies in a calm way. We tell children that assembly time is usually a period for thought and 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 teaching and prayers (when said) and participate in the hymns. 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, deputy or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

**3.4** We take the themes of our assemblies 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.

**3.5** Our assemblies are also times when we reflect on 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 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.

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

**3.7** We also invite other members of the school and local community to lead assemblies, such as parents, representatives from charities and local organisations, or individuals with something interesting to show the children that will enhance their understanding of other cultures.

## **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.

## **5 Monitoring and review**

**5.1** It is the role of the Headteacher to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The Headteacher liaises with the governors who oversee our policy on religious education and collective worship.

**This policy was reviewed in January 2019 and will be reviewed biannually or as necessary.**