

## Collective Worship Policy

<b>Approved</b>	February 16	<b>Responsibility</b>	Curriculum Committee
<b>Review</b>	Every 3 years		



### **Statutory Duty**

All maintained schools have to provide an act of daily Collective Worship for pupils in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act. This act is to be broadly Christian in character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

If it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian Collective Worship, the Headteacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted. Equally parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the act of Collective Worship.

At Greenfields Junior School it is the responsibility of the Headteacher in consultation with the Governing Body to arrange the daily Collective Worship in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

### **Definition**

We understand Worship to be a universal human activity which can be expressed as a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things to be of worth. For many people, worship involves commitment to a belief in God. However, it can have a much broader and inclusive meaning.

At Greenfields Junior School collective worship is mainly of a broadly Christian character. We define 'mainly of a Christian character' to mean that over half of the assemblies provided over the school year will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief, but will be non-denominational in character.

### **Aims**

Collective worship should provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature but at the same time respect their own personal beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Foster social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues
- Respond to the worship offered

Elements of the following will be included in Collective Worship to provide a time to:

- Become reflective, deep thinking individuals in a busy and complex society
- Reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school
- Develop a sense of unity, sharing and belonging
- Deepen their understanding of their culture and recognise that cultural diversity is enriching rather than threatening.

While awareness of other religions, traditions and beliefs may be raised, we recognize that the proper place for fuller exploration is in Religious Education.

### **Implementation**

Collective Worship is normally provided within a daily assembly. On days when there is no whole school assembly, Collective Worship takes place within the classroom. We aim to create an atmosphere of calmness prior to the start of Collective Worship.

Collective Worship may take place outside the school, eg. in the local church or other such venue deemed appropriate by the Headteacher.

An act of Collective Worship will provide opportunities to:

- Focus on a particular theme by providing a stimulus, eg story, artefact, current affairs, national events.
- Encourage reflection on the theme
- Develop a sense of reverence
- Enable children to respond in an appropriate way, eg prayers, songs, poetry/readings, stillness/thinking time

Collective worship will be acceptable to the whole school community, staff and pupils. Parents/carers may ask for their child/children to be totally or partially withdrawn from collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right and asked to contact the Headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship.

### **Presenters**

The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or class teachers will lead the act of Collective Worship on different occasions.

Visitors to the school may occasionally lead acts of collective worship, eg church ministers, youth workers, governors or other members of the local community. Such visitors should be personally known or met beforehand and must be well briefed on the school's requirements.

The Headteacher is the overall coordinator.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Governors may attend acts of Collective Worship on an ad hoc basis to assess the impact on the school community.

The school will review this policy every 3 years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.