

# Colburn Community Primary School

## Policy on Collective Worship

In our school we endeavour to promote a child's spiritual moral and social development as well as their formal education. Through our daily act of collective worship we introduce children to the act of prayer and the concept of spirituality. Worship is normally carried out during school assemblies held each morning. Sometimes assemblies may be held in the local church or another religious building. Worship can also take place in classrooms. We recognise that not all assemblies contain an act of worship.

This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE) and reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

### Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children 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 how to worship.

### Collective worship

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.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the wider community.

### Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of whole school morning assembly 3 days a week and Key Stage Assemblies on the remaining two days of the week. Classes will also be timetabled on a regular basis to lead Christian worship.

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 and adults (staff and parents) to behave in an appropriate manner. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate or observe respectfully periods of prayer, reflection, singing and thought provoking activities. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are

related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum in particular with aspects of PSHCE and life in modern Britain. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Colburn Community Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

### **Monitoring and review**

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors. This Governor will meet termly with a cross-section of Year 5 and 6 pupils to review children's perceptions of collective worship.

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.

March 2016

Signed:

**This policy has been checked and approved by governors.**

**Last reviewed: March 2016**

**Next review due: March 2018**