



Collective Worship Policy

Date of Review	Date of Next Review
Jan 2019	Jan 2021

Policy on Collective Worship

1 Rationale

Worship for some people might be devotion to a divine being, power or personal God; for others it might mean reflection on and understanding of those elements of life which are of value and worth. In Local Authority maintained schools the Education Reform Act Section 7 requires collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, that is, it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. Our school community is made up of people from many religions and cultures and while acts of worship are mainly of a Christian nature, we conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to all faiths and beliefs.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God and reflect;
- to provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- to provide opportunities for expressing shared experiences, interests and to celebrate special occasions together;
- to promote the school ethos and reinforce fundamental British values which include:
 - British democracy
 - the rule of law
 - individual liberty
 - respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs (and no faith).

3 Collective worship

3.1 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.

3.2 Collective worship takes place as:

- whole school and cross Key Stage assemblies;
- team assemblies;
- as part of Singing Together;
- a time for quiet reflection in class at an appropriate point during the day.

4 Organisation of collective worship

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 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 PSHCE themes, religious festivals, special days and charitable events. We plan our assemblies annually but take into account the need for flexibility to enable us to respond to local, regional, national and global events.

4.4 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. Ingleby Mill Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

4.5 On some weeks, there is a particular assembly that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

4.6 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

5 Right of withdrawal

5.1 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 and carers 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.

5.2 Any parent wishing to withdraw their child should make an appointment to see the Head Teacher.

6.2 This policy will be reviewed every two years.