

# **Whartons Primary Collective Worship Policy**

**Date of Policy:** January 2017

**Member(s) of staff**

**Responsible:** Julia Dickson

**Review Date:** January 2018

# Collective Worship Policy

At The Whartons Primary School, we understand worship to be a special act or occasion. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, our collective worship is 'mainly of a broadly Christian character'. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Whilst the majority of acts of worship in our school are broadly of a Christian character, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## Aims and purpose

- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of community spirit
- To encourage participation and response
- To provide an opportunity for our pupils to worship

## Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This is usually in the form of an assembly which is for the whole school, although pupils in Reception participate as is appropriate to their age and development. It may be in key stages or classes.

The Headteacher and all other members of teaching staff conduct assemblies, there is a singing assembly each week and a key stage/phases assembly. Local clergy and representatives of local religious groups are also sometimes invited to conduct assemblies.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection and we expect children to behave in an appropriate way by being quiet and thoughtful. We invite them to participate by answering questions, talking to partners and joining in with songs and reflections.

The themes for assemblies are based on our PSHE scheme Jigsaw and cover social and emotional aspects of learning or other topical issues and we adopt a relevant ethos for the week. We relate these themes to traditions of the Christian faith and often reflect festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

We celebrate the achievements of our pupils at our end of week celebration assembly both in and out of school by encouraging pupils to share trophies and certificates and to display their work. Certificates are awarded by teachers to those children who have really excelled in following our theme of the week.

We welcome parents and governors to our special assemblies eg class assemblies.

**Right of withdrawal**

We expect all pupils 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 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.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all pupils who withdraw from collective worship.

Related policies: PSHCE, Religious Education

Ratified by the Teaching & Learning committee of the governing body:

12:01: 2017

Reviewed January 2017

Review date: January 2018 (annual)