



## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Introduction**

At Lady Bay Primary School our collective worship is “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character” (as required by the 1988 and 1993 Education Acts) but also contains elements drawn from a number of different faiths. Assemblies/collective worship may also deal with moral themes which reflect values from all religious faiths and non.

If a broad and flexible approach is used, assemblies/collective worship will not affect the integrity of anyone taking part at our school but may develop the spiritual awareness of every individual.

Assembly/collective worship is one of a number of means that the school uses to support the children’s understanding and engagement of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### **Aims**

The Department for Education state that collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

### **The organisation of collective worship**

Separate assemblies/collective worship for Foundation and Key Stage 1 (Foundation only from the summer term) and Key Stage 2 take place each morning unless unusual or exceptional circumstances mean that this is not possible (SATs week for instance). Numbers of children and lack of space mean that whole school assembly is not practical on a regular basis. Whole school assembly is held perhaps 4 times per year – at the start of the school year, prior to Christmas, at the start of the new calendar year and at the end of the school year or as circumstances dictate.

Assemblies/collective worship are delivered in the school halls. However, on occasion assembly/collective worship is delivered within the classroom to the one class.

Each assembly/act of collective worship takes about 20 minutes. Time for personal reflection is built in to the end of the assembly.

All children take part in the assembly/collective worship unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw their child from collective worship (see relevant paragraph in the policy).

The bulk of assemblies/collective worship are led by the school's Senior Leaders but all teachers lead our collective worship and assemblies unless they choose to opt out on grounds of conscience. Visiting speakers also take assemblies/collective worship.

## **Themes within our Assemblies/collective worship**

**(all are examples)**

**Christian themes:** Readings/stories from the Bible – Jesus' parables etc, singing, festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Harvest. Special days such as Mothering Sunday. Understanding of Christian rites and practices i.e. christening, first communion.

**Other Faiths:** Festivals such as Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr, Hajj, Diwali, Passover. Rites and practices such as Ramadan, Bar Mitzvah, Hindu burial

**Moral themes:** Good and evil, greed, poverty, friendship, bullying, charity, prejudice, courage and bravery.

**Global citizenship:** Ensuring the children are familiar with and support our global citizenship agenda

**Jigsaw:** The first assembly each half term will be a Jigsaw assembly to introduce the RHE topic for that half term.

**Great lives:** Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Thomas Barnardo, Florence Nightingale, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Captain Scott, Helen Keller.

**Inspirational local figures:** i.e. Regular blind visitor, competing member of Team GB Paralympics team.

## **British Values**

Although our assembly/collective worship is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character we recognise the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life stances represented in Nottinghamshire and Great Britain.

For further information on British values at Lady Bay Primary School please see our British values statement.

## **The right to withdraw children from collective worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from assembly/collective worship. Where this is the case then the parent should write a letter to the Headteacher making this request. Any child who is withdrawn from assembly/collective worship will have alternative arrangements made during the period of assembly or collective worship by the class teacher.

**Governors - 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**