



## Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed May 2021

Collective worship is a means of enabling children to experience a spiritual dimension, rooted in Christian teaching, values and traditions. It is often subsumed within assembly; worship is the time within that gathering when there will be quietness, reflection, a sense of thinking about something bigger than ourselves.

Assembly is to do with meeting as a group, sharing values that are to do with the ethos of the institution and its distinctive Christian character. Celebration, joy, curiosity, recognition of endeavour, all have their place. There will be an overlap between the explicit and implicit meaning of 'worship'.

Collective worship is required by law on a daily basis in all state schools. The nature of the worship has to be broadly Christian. In voluntary aided schools, such as The Hendreds, the added dimension of the historical and present connection with the church is recognised.

*"Worship will be - appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils, - provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders." (DFES)*

### Principles

Practice will change, depending upon the composition of the staff and the relationship the vicar has with the children. These principles inform what we do:

- Worship is seen as a broad concept, including elements of awe, wonder, reflection, quietness, exploring and questioning.
- Tolerance of other beliefs and practices is expected, and the common human elements of faith, such as festivals and symbols, are explored.
- The teaching of the Anglican Church is at the core of worship.
- An understanding of the festivals, artefacts and symbols of the Church is an essential part of our work.
- We aim to invite children to pray or think quietly, rather than insisting on this.
- The involvement of the vicar is valued as children learn to recognise his/her belief, commitment and sincerity.

### Guidelines

Assembly is held daily, usually in the morning. During the week we hope to ensure that children will have had time to experience a sense of having touched upon something of deep significance, however gently or fleetingly.

Worship need only be a small part of a larger assembly, during which other aspects of school life are affirmed.

Rituals are observed that encourage a sense of anticipation, quietness and respect. These include how the children enter and leave the hall, use of music, creative silence, prayer/meditations, stories and

readings, artefacts and symbols e.g. candles, instruments, books. Rituals are a means of enabling worship and include:

Assemblies include whole school, key stage and class.

When holding class assemblies, teachers may choose to have a very brief (10 minutes) time focused entirely on the worship. This is particularly suited to the reading of poems, listening to a special piece of music, learning a prayer, looking at and discussing reactions to a beautiful object, painting or flower for example.

Major Christian festivals and the end of each school year are marked by worship in the parish church, enabling pupils to increase their understanding and experience of sacred space.

Pupils have age-appropriate opportunities to contribute to leading collective worship through presentations, prayers and music.

### **Rights of withdrawal**

The right of withdrawal was established in the Education Act 1944, re-enacted in the Education Reform Act 1988.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Parents are asked to discuss the matter with the Headteacher in the first instance.

If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship then the Academy must comply unless the request is withdrawn. The Academy remains responsible for the supervision of any student withdrawn from collective worship, unless the student is lawfully taking part in collective worship elsewhere.