



## **THE FLYING START FEDERATION**

### **Collective Worship for Primary Schools**

#### **Introduction**

At The Flying Start Federation of schools we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our schools. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

#### **Aims**

The central aims of Collective Worship at both of our schools are to:

- provide our children with daily opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- help children develop understanding both of the nature and language of worship
- help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

#### **The Legal Position**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief."

At both of our schools we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes include the core values of the schools- Kindness, Courage, Forgiveness, Respect, Honesty, as well as others and the value of all human life. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We also utilise themes related to the Every Child Matters agenda and link this to our PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) work.

We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at our schools is an inclusive activity. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher.

#### **Context of Collective worship**

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary in size and are led by members of staff as well as visitors from the local church community and representatives from other faiths.



A candle is used to promote stillness and reflection as well as music, and the children are invited to contribute to the daily act of worship, through questions, singing and participation.

Assemblies are based around the PSHE whole school themes that we often cover in the classroom. Main festivals, events, current affairs, religions, cultures and famous peoples' lives are also included as appropriate to the theme and the time of year.

At the end of each half term we invite Parents and Friends of the schools to come to a Celebration assembly.

Parents are also invited to the local church to join us for our annual Harvest Festival and Carol Service. All produce collected at the Harvest Festival is given to local charity groups who help the less fortunate in our community.

Visitors also play a part in the life of our school and contribute to acts of worship. These are as follows: local vicars, church groups, charity workers, missionaries, people who follow different religions and people who have different careers.

A range of resources is used to enhance children's learning and reflection. These include; stories, music, slides, poems, power point presentations, pictures and posters and DVDs all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

### Conclusion

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate children's' talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee**

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<b>Approving committee:</b>	<b>Teaching &amp; Learning Committee</b>
<b>Date revised:</b>	
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<b>Date for Review</b>	<b>January 2018</b>

### **Version History**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Brief Summary of Change</b>	<b>Owner's Name</b>
0.1	23.01.2014	Policy Adopted	Gina Finch
1.1	12.01.2016	Reviewed – no change	