



Town Junior School

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted: June 2016

To be reviewed on: June 2017

Review date

Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires that all schools have a daily act of worship, either together as a whole school or in smaller groups. As a Christian Foundation we follow the traditions and values of the Church of England. In a multi faith society we aim to encourage the children's understanding and respect for other faiths. Worship will be mainly Christian in character, whilst acknowledging religious and cultural diversity existing in society and the wide beliefs of the local community.

Aims of Collective Worship

During Collective Worship teachers and children come together to pause during a busy school day to:-

- Worship God
- Reflect on their own beliefs
- Develop a spiritual and moral dimension to life
- Discover the value of meditation and silence
- Celebrate the diversity of human life and experience

Implementation

Collective Worship will:-

- Involve the whole school and smaller groups
- Include prayers, songs, stories, drama, silence, the power of the spoken word and create opportunities for spiritual reflection
- Be ecumenical, taking into account a broad range of denominational backgrounds whilst observing Anglican traditions
- Celebrate the achievement, recognising strengths in all areas of school life: sport, music, good work, courtesy, kindness and awards gained outside school
- Be relevant to the age of the children
- Observe the cycle of the Christian year
- Celebrate the major Christian Festivals
- Maintain links with local churches
- Make use of Christian symbols and artefacts
- Acknowledge the principle festivals of other religions

Collective Worship will be led by any of the following

- Staff
- Children
- Other appropriate visitors

Planning and Organisation

The themes of our Assemblies are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith and reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. The themes are planned by SLT in accordance with Religious Festival and other notable dates. Sometimes the themes will build upon topics that are taught within the school curriculum to include PSHE links. Further opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder are provided in all curriculum areas.

All Governors are welcome to attend any of our Assemblies. All Governors, parents and carers are encouraged to attend assemblies.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Parents are encouraged to contact the Head Teacher if they want to express concerns and then asked to put their request in writing.

Staff also have the right not to attend Collective Worship, or to be involved in the preparation and delivery of an act of worship contrary to their beliefs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship is monitored by talking with children about their reflections and experiences. The voice of the child is central to the evaluation of the

effectiveness of this policy. It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. They will liaise with the Headteacher before reporting to the Governing Body on Collective Worship annually.

Agreed by governors -----

Implementation date -----