



# The Village Federation of Carsington & Hopton and Kirk Ireton Primary Schools



## Collective Worship Policy

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### **1.0 Rationale**

The Village Federation collective worship policy reflects and reinforces many of our aims and the school ethos. Common strands are exemplified as follows:

- care and support
- respect and responsibility
- reflective self-development
- independence of thought

### **2.0 Collective Worship Aims**

In keeping with these aims, collective worship at The Village Federation is planned to:

- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- provide a worthwhile educational experience which takes account of pupils' age, aptitude and family background
- provide opportunities for staff, pupils and members of the wider community to contribute to the life of the schools
- provide opportunities for worship, reverence, celebration and reflection
- enable pupils to reflect on a Christian basis in terms of values and beliefs
- provide a worship experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths
- provide students with something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to

The planned educational outcomes of collective worship include:

- whole-school celebration
- sharing and experiencing differences
- building a sense of group identity
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- a break from the busy nature of life for stillness and quiet
- learning how to behave in a large social group
- exploring feelings and emotions
- learning how to perform in front of an audience
- learning how to respond to a performance
- making visible the schools' leadership in terms of ethics /moral purpose

### **3.0 Legal Aspects**

The Education Act 1996 requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every state-funded school to provide a daily act of collective worship which should not be distinctive of the tradition and practice of particular religious denominations.

Parents have the right to withdraw their pupils from acts of worship. Teachers, including Headteachers, have the same right of withdrawal.

In state-funded schools collective worship is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. As such, at The Village Federation in any one term most acts of collective worship will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and teaching while also sharing the cultural and celebratory traditions of other faiths at appropriate times.

An act of worship at the school which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief need not contain only Christian material. It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ.

Material for assemblies will come from a wide variety of sources including Christian. The assemblies generally will follow themes that are aligned to the delivery of the personal and social development programme.

We will also maintain a multi-faith calendar of events which recognises significant times within the schools year where other religious festivals and times can be identified and celebrated. Also topical or other relevant issues may be picked up as appropriate. The content of all of these assemblies would be varied but would include a significant Christian input within any term.

### **4.0 Organisation of collective worship**

The programme of acts of collective worship is overseen by the Headteacher. It will reflect the needs of the age-range in a 4-11 school.

## **5.0 Involvement of Visitors**

Visitors should understand the Department's guidelines in circular 1/94:

- i) Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs (paragraph 50)
- ii) Worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power (paragraph 57).

Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

## **6.0 Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the school.