

## Welford, Sibbertoft & Sulby Endowed School

### Policy for Collective Worship

#### **Aims**

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; 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.

#### **Statutory requirements**

- All pupils to take part in daily collective worship.
- It is the head teacher's and governing body's duty to ensure that daily Collective Worship takes place.
- The responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the head teacher after consultation with the governing body.

#### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

- The timing and organisation of daily collective worship can be flexible. There may be a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or different school groups.
- Collective Worship should be appropriate for and include all pupils.

#### **Meaning of Collective Worship**

- 'Worship' is not defined in the legislation, but it must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities. However, worship in school will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.
- Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place at the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Collective Worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.
- Taking part in Collective Worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It follows that an act of Collective Worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils.

#### **Character of Collective Worship**

- Section 7(1) of the Education Reform Act (and the corresponding section of the 1993 Act) states that Collective Worship is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.
- The Act then further defines Collective Worship 'of a broadly Christian character' as being worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief, but not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.
- The extent to which and the ways in which the broad traditions of Christian belief are to be reflected should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages.

#### **Right of Withdrawal**

- Parents are informed in the prospectus of their right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship.
- If a parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school will comply.
- Parents are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal.
- The school will continue to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from Collective Worship.

At Welford, Sibbertoft and Sulby Endowed School, our particular aims for Collective Worship include:-

- sharing a sense of fellowship by worshipping together



- giving expression to the living relationship between God and humanity
- sharing emotions such as love, delight, joy, hope, friendship, fear, forgiveness, acceptance, anguish, fear, reverence
- giving an opportunity to celebrate or to voice concerns
- creating an atmosphere in which all children have opportunities for silent reflection, and active participation
- teaching the children to have respect for themselves and for others
- introducing children to the value of the Bible
- providing a positive experience of Christianity

We will endeavour to achieve these aims by providing an environment that is conducive to worship, making it a special part of the school day.

### **Format**

As a Church of England School, Collective Worship will include the teaching of the Bible, and reflect the traditions of the Church. The Liturgical Year will be used as a background for worship- major festivals, seasons and Saints days will be marked. Common themes may also be used as a focus for worship.

Collective Worship will include saying together an appropriate prayer at assembly and before lunchtime.

The format of our daily Collective Worship will vary but will include words, scripture, music, hymns, periods of quiet and reflection, prayer, and invitations to participate and contribute.

To create the appropriate atmosphere, music or silence can be used to set this time apart from other activities of the day.

### **Planning and record keeping**

In liaison with class teachers and the Priest-in-Charge/Lay Reader, the senior teacher will plan the Collective Worship format term by term, to ensure structure and continuity to the children's learning experience. Curricular links will be explored and developed. These plans will be kept, in case of query, and to facilitate future planning.

### **Resources**

The School will maintain and update when necessary a range of resources to support daily Collective Worship (tapes, prayer books, hymnbooks, religious artefacts etc).

### **Visitors**

Visitors are encouraged to take an active part in the school's collective worship.

