

# Cottesbrooke Infant & Nursery School

## Collective Worship Policy 2018

This document represents the school's current policy and practice for Collective Worship.

We are a multi-faith school and are proud to serve members of the community from different backgrounds and cultures. We reflect this diversity through celebrating customs and festivals from a range of religions, including Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist throughout the year.

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, all maintained schools must provide an act of daily collective worship for registered pupils of statutory school age which must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. In the case of our school this applies to children from Reception to Year Two. Our Nursery Class does not engage in a daily act of collective worship, however, they do participate in festival or other celebration assemblies as appropriate. Parents have the right to ask for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship.

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

### Aims

The aim of Collective Worship is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered

### Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents).

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character unless the school has applied for a determination. A determination allows collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a religious character other than Christian. Cottesbrooke Infant & Nursery School **does not** have a determination.

### Implementation

Our daily act of worship consists of us saying a prayer or blessing or having a moment of quiet reflection in class each day or saying our School Blessing in assembly.

The words of our School Blessing are:

*O Lord, bless our school, so that working together and playing together, we may learn to serve you and serve one another.*

When we say a prayer or blessing, the children are told that they can join in if they think they should or remain quiet and respectful if they are not participating. This forms part of our school ethos and makes Cottesbrooke Infant & Nursery School the caring and nurturing place that it is.

Collective worship may also take the form of:

- whole school/class stories with a moral and parallels linked to religious teachings
- praise through songs/music that refer to God or a religious character/story
- praise through performance (e.g. acting out a religious story)
- whole school assemblies led by visiting guests such as Birmingham City Mission. The school ensures that speakers do not contravene the school's No Platform for Extremism Policy

Collective worship is not the same as an assembly although it may take place as part of an assembly. Collective worship is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. Collective worship is **not** singing secular (non-religious) songs or plays/performance of a secular nature (re-enacting a fairy tale/ watching a pantomime). Nor does it include witnessing the secular nature of some celebrations that are cultural rather than religious, e.g. singing Christmas songs that do not mention Jesus/the Nativity, an Eid fashion parade, the story of Chinese New Year, singing Happy Birthday, receiving a gift from Santa, a party, an Easter bonnet parade, singing about spring, a story about a witch, making pancakes, etc.

### **Parents**

Parents are invited to attend any Friday assembly in addition to any special assemblies (e.g. class assemblies, the Harvest Festival) as advertised.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they so wish. Parents can only request that their child is withdrawn from the collective worship and not assemblies in general. Parents need to make this request in writing to the Head Teacher, who will then request a meeting. Any child withdrawn from collective worship may sit quietly in the entrance hall or other area with suitable activities provided by home (e.g. colouring books) provided that there is a responsible adult available to supervise them. If no adult is available, children will need to remain at the back of the school hall but will not be expected to participate. Staff also have the right to request withdrawal from collective worship and should speak to the Head Teacher about this.

Staff must ensure that such parents are kept informed of any additional events relating to specific faiths should parents wish their child to be withdrawn.

### **Fundamental British Values and Universal Virtues**

Cottesbrooke Infant & Nursery School promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We also promote the universal virtues of courage, compassion, self-discipline, justice and humility. Where relevant, these values and virtues should form part of the teaching of all lessons.

Actively promoting these values and virtues means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values.

It is not necessary for staff to 'promote' teachings, beliefs or opinions that conflict with their own, but it is unacceptable for staff to promote discrimination against people or groups on the basis of their belief, opinion or background.

### **Review**

The school will review this policy in line with the governor's schedule for the review of policies.