

## Policy on Collective Worship

March 2018

Ratified 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Review July 2020



### Rettendon School

#### Policy on Collective Worship

#### **1 Aims and objectives**

1.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to enable children to consider their spirituality and morality
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs and those of others
- to encourage participation and response
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit and appreciation of their world
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

#### **2 Collective worship**

- 2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to Christianity. Collective worship involves all members of a group, class or school coming together and participating.
- 2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and good morals. However, we conduct our assemblies in an inclusive manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

#### **3 Organisation of collective worship**

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship, which can be either a whole-school assembly, key stage, class or small group assembly. It may be led by a teacher, a visitor or our local vicar.
- 3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We teach children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful.
- 3.3 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Occasionally our assembly is held in the local church: All Saints, Rettendon.
- 3.4 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and celebrate.

#### **4 Right of withdrawal**

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Signed: J Barber

Date: February 2018

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