

# Long Sutton Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



### 1 Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide instances that give expression to those aims, values and expectations that are central to the school community and embodied in our statement of values.
- to provide an opportunity for reflection, stillness and prayer
- to enable children to consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to celebrate the good work and deeds that are a regular feature of this school
- to provide children with the opportunity to take responsibility for preparing and managing a class assembly in which each child in that class plays a valued part and to invite parents to share this with us

### 2 Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating. We expect everyone to take an active part in the collective worship and so care is taken to make the themes and presentation relevant to all children regardless of age, race, gender, disability or faith.

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 collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold collective worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### 3 Organization of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily act of collective worship, which is normally a whole-school assembly on three days of the week, a key stage assembly on one day and a class based assembly on one day. Throughout the week one theme is explored in different ways, through stories, songs, drama, discussion and reference to the teachings of Christ.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles or other objects that stimulate the senses and act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The headteacher and other members of staff normally conduct collective worship. The local clergy also conduct one act of collective worship per week.

We take the themes of our collective worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our collective worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our collective worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our weekly celebration assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in collective worship by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Celebration collective worship offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Long Sutton School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in celebration collective worship.

We invite parents to attend class focus collective worship, school-led church services and other special acts of celebration or collective worship , as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

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

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

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

#### **5 Monitoring and review**

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

This policy was reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Headteacher): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (C of G): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Incumbent): \_\_\_\_\_

This policy will next be reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

