

# Collective Worship Policy

## Ermine Street Church Academy

<b>First approved by Governors</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> July 2016</b>
<b>Policy to be reviewed annually</b>	
<b>Reviewed by Governors</b>	

### Philosophy

Worship is an important part of our school's life and Collective Worship is an extremely important part of the school day. 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 traditions of the Anglican and Methodist Church. However, we incorporate other faiths, events and themes into Collective Worship so that it is sensitive to the individual beliefs, backgrounds and faiths of all members of the school community.

We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. It is an opportunity to celebrate and learn. It is also used to encourage our pupils to think about their place in the world, through Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. We will not shy away from our responsibilities in enabling children to think deeply about themselves, the world in which they live and the place that faith has in our society.

### Aims and Purpose

- To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to explore their own beliefs;
- To foster in the pupils an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation;
- To contribute to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- To develop pupils' understanding and commitment to The Ermine Street Ethos;
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school;
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community;
- To acknowledge and respect difference and diversity.

## **The Contribution of Collective Worship to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils**

One of the key aims of collective worship is to offer pupils opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spiritual Development is promoted by:

- the celebration of special achievements
- guided reflection
- consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings
- appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and which contribute to a sense of awe and wonder

Moral Development is promoted by:

- consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
- consideration of relationships
- encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives

Social Development is promoted by:

- coming together as a school / class group
- bringing visitors into school from the community
- sharing values and matters of concern

Cultural Development is promoted by:

- using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
- exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture

### **Organisation and Planning**

Collective Worship takes place daily.

On different days it is organised slightly differently and is led by different members of staff and representatives from the local Anglican and Methodist Church. The content of Collective Worship is planned on a termly basis, with one main, over-arching theme which is then broken down to an individual theme for each week.

Collective Worship always begins with the lighting of a candle and ends with the candle being extinguished. A prayer will always be shared which the children have the option to make their own by joining in with the 'Amen'. A hymn will usually be song.

Pupils are encouraged and given opportunities to become involved in Collective Worship and also lead it. Their involvement ranges from contributing to prayers and selecting hymns to planning and delivering the entire Collective Worship without adult intervention or support. We actively promote leadership by pupils.

Once per term we hold a Eucharist for the entire school community. This service is linked to particularly significant times in the Christian calendar, such as Advent.

Class assemblies take place on a termly basis. Each class prepares and presents an assembly to entertain their peers and their parents/relatives. These assemblies should showcase the children's learning and they should also be an opportunity to share their talents and develop their self-esteem and confidence.

## **Right of Withdrawal**

Our school is based on an inclusive ethos; we expect all children to attend collective Worship assemblies. However we respect the right of any parent/guardian to request permission for their child to be excused. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act. Withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of those children granted withdrawal from assemblies. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act.

## **Monitoring and Review**

Collective Worship will always be well planned. The themes for Collective worship are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are expected to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. Collective Worship plans are saved on the school's server.

At the end of each Collective Worship some children are asked to record their reflections and thoughts on it. Different children are given this responsibility each day and their comments are collated into a book. The comments are reflected on by staff in order to inform and improve subsequent Collective Worship.

Governors monitor Collective Worship on a termly basis. They observe a Collective Worship and meet the Collective Worship Leader to jointly review planning, children's comments and developments in this aspect of the school.