

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral 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 teach children how to worship.

2 Collective worship

2.1 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 subject to the right of withdrawal (see paragraph below).

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 traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

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

3 Organization of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly, although on Tuesday mornings we hold separate KS1 and KS2 assemblies. Thursdays afternoons are our 'Celebration' assembly, where we celebrate merits, class worker, birthdays and other achievements in and out of school.

3.2 We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and other aids to help children focus.

3.3 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but once a week collective worship is normally conducted by our vicar, Rev. Rodney Harrison.

3.4 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 assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place using the Primary Assembly File or planned topics thought appropriate.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate. They offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for

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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. **St Katharine's** School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.6 We encourage our parents and governors to attend our assemblies as frequently as possible, 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.

3.7 On special occasions, collective worship takes place in the church.

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 attending collective 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.

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

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of the school governor, Rev. Rodney Harrison, who has 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.

Signed:

Headteacher

Signed:

Governor