



# COLNEY HEATH SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY DOCUMENT

### 1. Aims and Purpose

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- To provide an environment which will enable 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 and reflect

### 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 in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- 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 conduct our assemblies 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 school. Monday – whole school assembly, Tuesday – whole school assembly taken by Revd. James Spanner (linked to weeks theme), Wednesday separate KS1 Celebration (hall), KS2 SEAL Assembly. Thursday – KS1 SEAL Assembly (hall), KS2 Music Assembly, Friday – whole school sharing/achievement assembly.

Each half term the School Council organise a Circle Time session, in which all classes from Reception to Year 6 are mixed.

- 3.2 Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children it is a time of calm reflection. Children are expected to behave in an

appropriate way e.g. to be quiet and thoughtful and as they are able to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs. Music plays an important part in our assemblies. An appropriate atmosphere is created by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

- 3.3 The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. Groups of children and individuals many also be involved in leading an assembly.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from SEAL 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.
- 3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies 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. Colney Heath School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- 3.6 We invite parents to special acts of worship and we encourage them to attend, 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.

#### **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 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.
- 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 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 Subject Leader and Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

**Devised**

**Nov'08**