



# Layfield Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

June 2018

**Review date:** June 2019

## **1 Aims and objectives**

1.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship;
- 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;

We aim to be an inclusive school and offer equality of opportunity and diversity when needed to all groups of pupils within school.

We value, seek to understand, and identify the potential in everyone. Through collective worship we promote values which include:

- British democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs (and no faith)
- Unicef Rights of the child.

We do this alongside an appreciation and celebration of difference and diversity (reflecting all protected characteristics and social class). We promote rights and accept that rights come with responsibility.

Valuing our cultural heritage, we explore our local, regional and national heritage and British history, both positive and negative – learning from history and taking pride in positive contributions made.

## **2 Collective worship**

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to a 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 normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 Collective worship forms part of our assemblies. While most acts of collective worship in our school are Christian, our assemblies reflect global, national and local events, the annual calendar, and 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. This forms part of each daily assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly (although sometimes we also hold separate team and phase assemblies), or a class assembly.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection and thinking. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully, and to participate in prayer and hymns or singing. Before prayers we ask children to decide whether they wish to 'put their hands together and close their eyes' or 'chose a point of focus'. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the members of staff but every Friday the pupils conduct a praise assembly. Sometimes assemblies are led by other visitors.

- 3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the Go Giver and SEAL programme, traditions of the Christian faith. We also 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. Assemblies have a different focus each week.

Assemblies are organised as follows:

Monday	Whole School – introduction of the focus for the week
Tuesday	Singing Practice
Wednesday	Class Assembly
Thursday	Key Stage - Sharing Assembly
Friday	Whole School Celebration

We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place and weekly themes are published every half term (this allows room for changes, for example, current affairs).

- 3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Layfield Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- 3.6 On some weeks, there is a particular assembly that parents and carers are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- 3.7 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

#### **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 and carers 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.
- 4.2 The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

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

- 5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed annually.