

# Long Sutton Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



### 1 Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to share those aims, values and expectations that are central to the school community and are based on shared Christian 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 Christian 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 increasing 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.

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

### 3 Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. Throughout the week the planned themes are 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 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 act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Collective Worship is usually led by the headteacher and other member of staff with some acts of worship led by local clergy. At least three acts of worship per year are held in the parish church.

We take the central themes of our Collective Worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Themes are also taken from stories, festivals and events of other major world faiths and from the PSHE and RRR programmes of work.

Celebration Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

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 develops a shared understanding of the Christian ethos which underpins our values.

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.

#### **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): \_\_\_\_\_

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