



# Ashlands Primary School Collective Worship Policy

*"Where every child has the chance to shine"*

**This policy embodies our Ethos Statement – Safe Children at Ashlands**

## **1 Aims & Purposes**

The aims and purposes of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for 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**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together in classes or as a whole school and participating in an assembly, singing practice or class based discussion of key collective worship themes.

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 assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

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

### **3 Organisation of collective worship**

Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis and can be conducted as a whole school, key stage, year group or class.

We conduct assemblies 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, listen carefully to the teachings and to participate fully in prayers or hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes other objects to focus the children's attention.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the Head Teacher, Key Stage Coordinator or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy, representatives from other religious groups or other visitors to the school.

We take the themes for our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we 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. We plan our assemblies in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children and by raising issues they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to award 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.

Throughout each half term there are special 'Celebration Assemblies' for each Key Stage that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit and shows both school and home working together in support of the children's achievements.

### **4 Right of withdrawal**

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 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.

The Head Teacher keeps a record of all the children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

## **5 Monitoring and reviewing**

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 Head Teacher before reporting to the governors.

The governing body reviews this policy regularly and considers any amendments in the light of the review findings.

The Policy was agreed by the governors:

Staff consulted: