



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **Introduction**

At Exwick Heights Primary School we believe that Collective Worship, whilst reflecting the broad traditions of Christian beliefs, is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to allow time for reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

### **Aims**

The central aims of Collective Worship at Exwick Heights Primary School are to:

- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- help children develop and understand both of the nature and language of worship
- help children develop respect for and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **Acts of collective worship**

#### **Legal Requirements**

- The Education Reform Act (1998) requires schools to provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils
- Head teachers in county schools must consult the Governors but are themselves responsible for arranging acts of worship and ensuring that they take place even if, on grounds of conscience, they absent themselves
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship
- Teachers, including head teachers, have the same right of withdrawal
- In county schools collective worship is to be a "wholly or mainly Christian" and "not to be distinctive of any denomination" (ERA Section 7.1 ) It should be broadly Christian and should "reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief"
- In providing acts of collective worship the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the children should be taken into account

### **Context of Collective worship**

A balanced, planned programme will reflect the life and work of the school. The programme will contain themes which during the course of the year are likely to centre around:

- Religious festivals and special days

- Annual events and anniversaries
- Aspects of the school curriculum
- Developments from classroom activities
- Published assembly books and other literature

The full plan will leave room for the more topical and spontaneous acts of worship (for example, exploring affairs and responding to events in the life of the school).

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We record our acts of worship to inform our learning and plan for further developments. We are developing a range of resources to enhance children's learning. These include stories, music, slides, poems, pictures and posters and DVDs all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

### **Daily Provision**

An act of worship can be arranged at any time of the school day, for the whole school or smaller groups. Any normal group, such as a year group or class, can be the unit, but not a group chosen by reason of their religion. We will endeavour to create, wherever possible, an inspiring atmosphere.

### **Conclusion**

Collective Worship plays an important role in our school, as we seek to develop in our children the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.

This policy statement was agreed by the staff on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007

This policy statement was agreed by the Governors Curriculum Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Signed.....Chair of the Curriculum Committee

Date for review – Feb 2015