

# Elveden Church of England Primary Academy



## Collective Worship Policy

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## **Collective Worship Policy**

At Elveden C of E Primary Academy, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral part of school life. The worship within school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school.

### **1. Aims and purposes**

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- to provide an opportunity for the 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**

- 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. We expect everyone to take an active part in the worship.
- 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 collective worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 Collective worship promotes the school's Christian values but some assemblies also reflect and discuss other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community, linked to the R.E Curriculum.

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

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly.
- 3.2 We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

- 3.3 We follow the liturgical structure and we plan our collective worship following the GERS structure (Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending).
- 3.4 The Head teacher and other members of staff normally conduct collective worship, but local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups also come in to school to conduct them. Children are also given the opportunity to plan and take the lead in collective worship.
- 3.5 We take the 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 taken from the values for life document and are linked to P.S.H.E work. At the end of each half-term children reflect on the key messages learnt and children record their thoughts in the Book of Reflection.
- 3.6 Our weekly celebration assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assembly 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. Elveden C of E Primary Academy is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- 3.7 The theme for collective worship is displayed in the hall and in each classroom containing key messages for the teacher and children to refer to over the week. The half-term's theme is also put into the monthly newsletter so that parents can reinforce the messages at home.
- 3.8 We welcome governors' attendance to our collective worship at any time.

#### **4. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development we address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

#### **5. Right of withdrawal**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

## **6. Monitoring and review**

- 6.1 The Head teacher and R.E./C.W. leader regularly monitor collective worship and provide feedback to the individual and collectively to the staff.
- 6.2 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 Head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

## Assembly Themes

	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	First Half	Second Half	First Half	Second Half	First Half	Second Half
Year 1 (2013-14)	Friendship	Hope	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Creativity	Justice
Year 2 (2014-15)	Respect & Reverence	Truth	Service	Compassion	Thankfulness	Courage
Year 3 (2015-16)	Peace	Responsibility	Trust	Generosity	Humility	Wisdom