



Elvetham Heath Primary school

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Elvetham Heath Primary School is a community of learning where each child is valued as an individual and will develop a sense of self-respect and self-confidence alongside a love of learning. Through this each child will be motivated and supported towards achieving personal excellence, within a culture of celebration.

At Elvetham Heath Primary School we aim that collective worship be an integral part of the curriculum, reflecting the ethos of the school and making cross-curricular links. Our collective worship is organised around themes which are based on values and is mainly of a broadly Christian character. The themes explored, aim to contribute to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. In organising worship in this way we ensure that we are following the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Aims:

- To provide a focus for the school community each day involving its members as fully as possible,
- To explore and express individual and communal values and needs,
- To ensure a clear response to and celebration of diversity, including religious backgrounds ensuring that each individual's integrity is respected,
- To have a coherent structure of themes over the year, allowing flexibility for topical themes or concerns and for a balance of Christian, secular and other faith-based assemblies,
- To provide opportunities for large and small group interaction and reflection as well as for individual reflection,

To achieve these aims the whole school meets for worship at least once a term at the Church on the Heath. These are in celebration of Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The assemblies are led jointly by the Headteacher and the Minister. The Church provides a venue which allows the whole school to join together as well as encouraging a sense of awe and wonder and a particularly special time for reflection.

The Foundation Stage and Key Stage One hold performances in the school hall to celebrate Christmas focusing on the Nativity.

Most assemblies are held in one of the two school halls.

On Mondays the children meet as key stages to have an assembly led by a member of the leadership team. Leadership assemblies establish the theme for the week and include a celebration of achievement with start of week on a weekly basis. This award is given for a range of achievements and learning dispositions such as persevering with spellings, etc.

Once a week the children are either involved in an assembly in their classroom or attend choir. In both situations an act of worship is included.

The children meet as key stages each week for hymn practice.

Once a week the Foundation Stage / Key Stage One and Key Stage Two have separate assemblies led by staff from each phase. These assemblies continue the current theme following the termly plan provided for staff. This gives suggestions for stories or activities to further develop the theme discussed at the leadership assembly. Handwriting certificates may also be given at these assemblies.

On Fridays classes hold their annual focus assembly. This is a celebration of their work and is shared with parents and governors. Their parallel classes, twinned class from the alternate phase and siblings are invited to join the celebration. Where there is no focus assembly planned, there will be a class or year group assembly organised by the class teacher or year leader.

On days where any given class is not involved in an assembly in the hall, acts of worship are held within individual classes, ensuring that a daily act of worship takes place.

The school also involves a range of individuals from the school and wider community, outside speakers and visiting groups depending on current themes, topical issues and planned events.

Children are offered the opportunity to worship through the use of prayer, story, hymns and songs, poetry, drama, the use of artefacts, presentations, quiet reflection and discussion. By the use of symbolism and imagery, as well as words, each assembly aims to be accessible to each age group.

Staff follow set guidelines (see Collective Worship file and timetables) for creating an atmosphere for an assembly, e.g. through the use of music to welcome the children and to create a mood for deeper thought and spirituality. The act of collective worship is always signalled at Elvetham Heath by the lighting of a candle. This reminds the children that the time for prayer or reflection has arrived.

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from acts of worship; if any parent wishes to discuss this and the alternative arrangements that will be made for a child, please contact the Headteacher.

Reviewed and approved at / Ratified by FGB 24 November 2015

Next review due November 2017