



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. Year 5 present a whole school harvest assembly in the church, parents are invited to one of these assemblies.

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/or the Virtue/British Value or a specific religious festival or World focus which is appropriate to the date.

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 Foundation Stage (After October half term)/Key Stage 1 and then Key Stage 2 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 class in their final rehearsal. Where there is no focus assembly planned, there will be a class or year group assembly organised by the class teacher or year leader.

Also on Fridays there are two 'STAR of the week' assemblies Foundation Stage (after October half term)/Key Stage 1 and then Key Stage 2 to celebrate the children's effort and achievements. Where possible these are linked to the school virtues.

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.

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.

Responsibilities of staff leading assemblies:

- To conduct assemblies in a calm and peaceful atmosphere with a sense of reverence.
- To make children aware of the wonder and beauty of the world.
- To raise questions and develop children's thinking about their place in the world, the needs of others and how to live together with others in society.
- To help children understand that people have different beliefs which they express in a variety of ceremonies, celebrations and festivals.

- To foster understanding between pupils of different religious and cultural backgrounds.

Responsibilities of the Collective Worship Leader:

- To plan assemblies following the weekly theme, making them clearly structured and including a variety of music, talk, story, children's activity, a hymn, a visual focus or illustration, a prayer or reflection and a conclusion. Links to British Values and SMSC will be recorded on planning
- To plan for Collective Worship at the end of each term in readiness for the following term
- To adapt the plan in response to local, national or world events
- To keep up-to-date with recent publications and developments in the thinking on Collective Worship

Responsibilities of the Headteacher:

To ensure that the legal requirements of the 1998 Education Reform Act are met and that time and resources are available, enabling implementation of this policy.

Reviewed October 2017

Next review due November 2019