



ST ANN'S HEATH JUNIOR SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members of the school and its community to share this commitment.

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs and those of others;
- to promote the understanding that all religions should be respected equally;
- 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;

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God and to give balanced consideration to spiritual and moral issues. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly while respecting all religious views.

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 traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian and, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community. We include assembly topics about the significant festivals and occasions from other major religions.

Organisation of collective worship

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 and to listen carefully and participate as appropriate in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and stimuli that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The head teacher or deputy head normally conduct assemblies, and we also have regular visits from local ministers or other representatives of local religious groups.

Our assemblies are based around our school values, various themes from Christian teachings, celebrating events from the Christian calendar, and also drawing on teachings from other faiths and cultures and raising awareness of other religious festivals. Often the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school's PSHE curriculum, including SMCSE.

Regular assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies 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 school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. 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.

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

The relevant committee of the governing body monitors and reviews the effectiveness of our Collective Worship Policy on a regular basis through reports from the Head Teacher or their representative and by interactions with pupils, and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary. This policy will be reviewed as part of the policy review cycle.

| Policy Status | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Agreed by staff representatives | March 2017 |
| Agreed by Governors | March 2017 |
| Next Review Date | March 2020 |