



## Heatherside Infant School – Collective Worship Policy

POLICY TYPE	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED	REVIEW CYCLE	NEXT REVIEW
Curriculum	HT/RE Co-ordinator Curriculum Committee	<i>Autumn 2022</i>	3 Years	Spring 2025

Parents are welcome to request a paper copy of this document and comments are welcome.

As a school, we follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act and Education Act 1993. Collective Worship is part of the school day and forms part of our SMSC Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural development aspects of school life.

*'The Education Reform Act 1988 sets out as the central aim for the school curriculum that it should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.'* (Circular number 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship).

Each day the children will be gathered together in classes, year groups or as a whole school, for an act of worship. This will provide a time of unity and belonging when the school can be as one to share, reflect, celebrate and recollect. The act of worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting broad traditions of Christian belief although non-denominational. It will take place in the hall or classroom depending upon the group assembled.

A framework of themes for each term will be used to plan for collective worship which will be based on broad principles and values of Christianity. Other religions, traditions and customs will broaden experiences for the children. These may last for half a term, a week, or just a day. Parents have the right to withdraw their children and teachers also have the right to withdraw from the assembly.

### Aim

Within collective worship we aim to offer the children the following opportunities:

- to be part of a large or small gathering and experience a sense of community.
- to have the opportunity to respond to presentations of reading, music, drama, dance and prayer as an active participant.
- to have the opportunity to be an active participant through readings, drama, music, dance and prayer.

- to provide a time in the busy school day when the children and staff can come together and be peaceful for stillness and reflection.
- to celebrate special occasions and achievements, educational and personal but with awe, wonder, elation, gratitude, respect and reverence.
- to reflect on things of worth and those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us.
- to share and experience music, creating an atmosphere which is conducive to worship.
- to share and experience hymns and songs as an opportunity for celebration and reflection.
- to share and experience a quiet time of stillness for reflection or prayer.
- Collective Worship will be appropriate for the age of the children and take into consideration the diversity of experiences whether religious or not.
- Collective Worship may be presented by the Headteacher, deputy or staff, a class of children, a small group of children, the governors, support staff, parents, visitors, or representatives of local religious groups.
- All visiting presenters will be made aware of the age of the children. It will be necessary for the presenter to have given a brief resume of the content of their presentation and made known any special resources required to the Headteacher.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Every effort is made to enable all the children to experience opportunities to explore and share ideas and reflect, respond and celebrate together regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability and for those whom English is an additional language. For those parents who wish their child to be withdrawn from collective worship, supervision will be provided in the classroom or the library.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from participating in acts of collective worship. Requests for this must be made in writing to the headteacher, who will then meet with the parents to discuss this. Teachers and support staff are entitled to withdraw from Collective Worship. This request must also be made in writing to the headteacher.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the Single Equality Policy.

## **Special Educational Needs**

Children with Special Educational Needs will be involved in collective worship.

## **Early Years**

Children in reception classes will initially have year group or class gatherings for collective worship. The children will join whole school collective worship at least termly.