

# Grendon CE Primary School

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **1 Aims and purpose**

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**

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 in an assembly.

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, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions from major faiths.

Grendon CE Primary is a Value Based School and all acts of Collective Worship are linked to the monthly value.

### **3 Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school and often hold assemblies in church to celebrate important events in the Christian calendar.

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 to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and a cross, which act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head Teacher, teaching staff and local clergy will conduct these assemblies.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the core monthly value and will include traditions of the Christian faith, events of the Christian calendar and relevant current affairs at a local and global level.

Our assemblies also reflect the achievements and learning of the children both in school and out.

Assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Occasionally we invite parents to assembly and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time (see governor visits policy for conduct procedures).

Reflection Time is an additional act of Collective Worship which takes place daily in class at the end of the day and provides an opportunity for children to reflect on the content of whole school assemblies and on issues affecting themselves and others.

#### **4 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 Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

#### **5 Monitoring and review**

It is the role of the 'Historical, Geographical and Social Understanding' team to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

The Foundation Governors are involved in the self evaluation process relating to a section 48 inspection.