

Redmile Church of England Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

- 1.1 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

- 2.1 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. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- 2.2 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 and may make reference to the beliefs of others.
- 2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly.
- 3.2 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 and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.3 Pupils are invited out to say spontaneous prayers during assemblies and are also encouraged write prayers, either in lessons or voluntarily at home, which may be read out by them or the adult in charge if they prefer. Prayers are also said before lunch and at the end of the day. Pupils learn and say together form

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memory our School Prayer, The Lord's Prayer, The Grace, Lunchtime Prayer and Home time prayer.

- 3.4** The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. Pupils are also invited to lead assemblies, based on the theme for the week and a timetable is set up at the beginning of each term whereby pupils may volunteer by signing up. Each term, each Class also presents their studies to parents and friends of the school in their Class/whole school thematic assembly.
- 3.5** We use the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education plans and thematic units for collective worship which are based on the traditions of the Christian faith – this includes reflection of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. I.C.T. links are made and suggested resources are clearly identified.
- 3.6** Our 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 schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Redmile Church of England Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- 3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.
- 3.8** We welcome parents' attendance at our Special Assembly (every Friday, held in school) and family services. These are held at least termly and are in addition to the Celebratory assemblies held at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. They take place in church and are led by a member of the Belvoir Vale Ministry and Head teacher.
- 3.9** Year 6 pupils have an active role in helping to organise assembly: we have a Collective Worship file which pupils update and monitor, a prayer board which they have devised, music for reflection monitors (chose music and work the CD player!), hymn book monitors, furniture monitors (Collective Worship table and chairs).
- 3.10** The Collective Worship coordinator manages the timetables and planning at the beginning of each term, ensuring staff assembly leaders have copies of the required planning to ensure breadth, balance, continuity and coverage and to ensure each assembly is different in content but based on the theme for the week. The coordinator also liaises with Year 6 and maintains the Collective Worship display board in the hall.
- 3.11** A period of quiet reflection is included in all assemblies; a candle is usually lit which children hold in pairs together and the lights are dimmed.
- 3.12** Each Classroom has a Reflection Corner, whereby Collective Worship is reinforced and provides opportunities for children to extend their prayer and thought processes.

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4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** 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.
- 4.2** The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.

J.V. Hopkins

Date: Recent review spring 2014