

## **A Policy for Collective Worship at Recreation Road Infant School 2017**

### **The legal requirements for Collective Worship**

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- All pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- The act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings it may happen at any time of the school day
- It has to take place on school premises (In an aided school the Governors can make arrangements for worship elsewhere on special occasions e.g. the local church. In a controlled school acts of worship may take place off school premises but these should be in addition to the statutory acts of collective worship on the premises).
- The head teacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met. (In an aided or voluntary controlled school the responsibility for securing daily acts of worship lies with *the governing body* after consultation with the headteacher).
- The character and content of collective worship in these schools continues to be determined by governing bodies in accordance with their Trust Deeds.
- All staff, including the headteacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective worship. The headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship. (The right to withdrawal does not extend to staff in Aided schools.)
- All parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

### **The aims of Collective Worship at Recreation Road Infant School**

The government requires all schools to provide an act of Collective worship. At Recreation Road Infants we acknowledge that our school community is not a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church. We provide daily acts of Collective Worship, however, which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship in a believing Christian community. These are:

- praise
- reflection
- celebration
- thanks
- saying sorry
- sharing

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are also important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

The law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our Collective Worship. We therefore try to provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at some point in each act of collective worship. This is a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship their God if they should wish to do so.

### **The approach to Collective Worship at Recreation Road Infant School**

**We understand the term "collective" to mean a "coming together" of people. The nature of this "coming together" will vary depending on the ages and needs of the children concerned.**

The acts of collective worship are planned to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on, and respond to, things which we, as a school community, believe are important. These experiences will include:

- Stories and ideas shared (Biblical, Multi-cultural and factual)
- Discussion and questions
- Guest speakers

- Music and poetry
- An emphasis on the values of our school community, and of religious and non-religious traditions
- Celebrations of people’s contributions to our school values, and how their personal values have underpinned their learning and achievement

**The organisation of Collective Worship**

There is an act of Collective worship every day following the pattern shown below:

Monday	Years 1 and 2	Hall 10:15	Head
Tuesday	Years 1 and 2	Hall 10:15	Head
Wednesday	Years 1 and 2	Hall 10:15	Teaching staff
Thursday	Years 1 and 2	Classrooms	
Friday-singing together	Years 1 and 2	Hall 10:15	Year 2 staff member

The acts of worship follow themes designed by staff which support the aims of the school. The current year’s themes are displayed on the staff noticeboard. While staff are encouraged to follow these, allowances are made for marking festivals or other newsworthy events. Collective Worship in Early Years will take place predominantly in class groups, building towards some year group experiences later in the Reception year. The features of worship will be apparent in the way which it is tailored to the age profile of the children.

**Withdrawal**

Parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the School brochure and asked to contact the headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal are recommended in Circular 1/94. Staff also have the right to withdraw.

Signed.....Headteacher

Signed.....Chair of Governors

Date.....