

# Rothersthorpe CE Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

### 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
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- To give children the tools for worship
- To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to participate in the experiences of the immediate and wider community.

### Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the 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 that are represented in the school and wider community.

### Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly, although once weekly we also hold separate Key Stage assemblies.

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 in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The headteacher or other members of staff normally lead assemblies, but once a week local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups come in to lead the worship.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We use the **Values for Life** scheme which develops 18 Christian values in a three year rolling program. The scheme provides detailed plans for weekly worship over a term and suggestions for an interactive display that can be a focal point for reflection, prayer and participation from the school community. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to 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 the children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Rothersthorpe School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

We invite parents to our 'achievements' assembly once a week and to other special assemblies and services in the school or at the church. We encourage parents 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 as members of the school community, as well as in their role of monitoring the collective worship within the school.

We have special assemblies and services in church to celebrate Christian festivals.

### **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**

Foundation Governors meet with R.E Coordinator twice a year to monitor and review religious education and collective worship, and liaise with the headteacher to come into assemblies and attend services throughout the year.

**This policy was reviewed by Staff and Governors March 2015**