



## THE FOREST FEDERATION Collective Worship Policy

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all and it celebrate achievements of all members of the school,

### **Ethos**

- All children are treated with care and respect, encouraging the development of their individual beliefs within a Christian environment. Children are encouraged to develop an awareness of the difference between right and wrong and to respect Christian moral values.
- Every member of the school community is valued and respected for their contribution to the life of the school. Parents, Staff and Governors are seen as partners in the process of enabling children to participate in, and to develop worthwhile and satisfying lives and as such will be expected to affirm the Christian values on which the school operates.
- Our schools value mutual liaison with the Churches and our communities and maintain a Christian ethos throughout the teaching of the National and wider curriculum.
- Staff treat each other with courtesy and consideration, respecting each other's opinions and working together in a spirit of helpfulness and friendliness.
- Worship develops the spiritual dimension of each child and emphasise the importance of Jesus and the Kingdom of God.
- The daily collective worship aims to create a Christian foundation through which the children can discover a faith on which to base their lives.

### **Statutory Requirements**

At Needwood the daily act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England. Both schools take into account DfE legislation: All children will be provided with a daily act of worship which will be, appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils; provided in a variety of approaches, with a variety of leaders. We recognise the right of withdrawal (see below) from Collective Worship for pupils at the request of parents.

Aims and purpose:

- to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and the response of pupils
- to foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- to explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- to affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- to learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- to worship together as a school rather than in individual key stages
- to provide an evocative setting for worship, with comfort for pupils and staff and appropriate resources, including a spiritual focus
- to develop a sense of community spirit and shared values
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- to teach children how to worship.

### **Organisation and Management of Collective Worship**

Collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of Christian character'. We normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ (Anglican). We hold a daily act of collective worship in our schools

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold worship that reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

It is normally whole school worship although we do hold class or key stage worship. Our regular Friday worship is celebration worship where parents are invited. Celebration Worship offers 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.

Additionally, Clergy take regular worship and we have lay readers as well as guest worship leaders and speakers from both Christian and other religious backgrounds and people to speak to the children about non-religious topics too. At Rangemore we have introduced Taize and this is a weekly reflective act of worship.

Reviewed January 2015

Worship regularly takes place in our local Christian churches. On occasions, parents, members of the congregation and wider community are invited to special acts of worship held in the local churches (for example Harvest, Christingle, Easter, Mothers' Day etc.).

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection.. Children are expected to enter and leave all Collective worship quietly to enhance a reflective and thoughtful ambiance. Music from a variety of genres is played as the children enter and leave the collective worship. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns and religious or thoughtful songs. 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.

We always say a prayer and say the grace together. In addition we always say Grace before our lunchtime meal and a prayer at the end of the day, every day.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend worship 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. It is however acceptable, in order to avoid misunderstanding, for the Headteacher to seek clarification from any parent wishing to withdraw their child. The children who are withdrawn from collective worship are usually absent from the area where the collective worship is taking place, if however the parents agree the child may remain present during the act of collective worship but not take part in it. 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.

### **Responsibilities**

**At All Saints** it is the responsibility of the headteacher, in consultation with the governors, to see that these arrangements are carried out. **At Needwood** it is the responsibility of the governors, in consultation with the headteacher and the Governing Body has responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured in conjunction with the Headteacher, staff, and school community.

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 in both schools. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

The worship coordinator has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all statutory requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community. Records of content are kept centrally for whole-school collective worship and it is the responsibility of the worship coordinator to ensure that these records are followed and updated as applicable.

The collective worship coordinator has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources. These records are retained in the head teacher's office.

The collective worship coordinator keeps up to date with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Improvement Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development, as far as practically possible.

### **Monitoring and review**

Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship will be an on-going process. We are expected to and for many years kept a weekly monitoring sheet for collective worship but have not found that this has much value. We discuss collective worship where relevant in staff meetings and reflect on the changes and updates needed to ensure it is effective and reflective practice.