



The Spinney Primary School Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to explore and develop their own spirituality including worship of God (as appropriate to the individual)
- to enable the consideration of spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable an exploration of personal beliefs and beliefs of others;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to provide opportunities for worship

2 Collective worship

2.1 The act of worship is not the same as an assembly, but it may form part of an assembly. Worship is required in school by law. What follows here applies to County schools; for church schools. Pupils may be withdrawn from collective worship by their parents on religious grounds. Teachers also may withdraw from collective worship.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Judeo-Christian character', we regularly base our assemblies on the broad traditions of the Christian Church and recognise that these traditions are the same foundations for other world faiths including Judaism and Islam. Accordingly we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. We respect the right of all pupils to have a religion or not.

2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

2.4 Worship should be inclusive and respect the integrity of all those taking part. This may affect the choice of material used; it will affect the way material and activities are introduced, for example pupils may be invited to join in a prayer; they should not be required to do so.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective assembly which may also include an act of collective worship which can be either whole-school or a class 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, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate in prayer and hymns as appropriate. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children. Before prayer children are invited to take part if they wish to do so, but are given the option to sit quietly if not.

For Example:

"We will say a prayer in a moment. If you wish to make it your own may join in by saying Amen at the end, or another phrase of your choosing. If you do not wish to do so you may just sit quietly"

3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from a range of sources including SEAL and the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. The Spinney School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

3.6 Assembly is a collective act and parents and other members of the community are invited to attend on a number of occasions throughout the school year. These include celebration events, SEAL sharing assemblies, special occasions such as World Book Day and Church Events including Harvest, Christmas and Mothering Sunday. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.

3.7 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

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 religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.

5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Policy History

Date	Where	What done
5 th September 2011	Subject leader release time	Policy reviewed by Sue Hensby
8 th March 2017	Governor meeting	Policy reviewed
10 th May 2017	Governor meeting	Policy reviewed and updated by S. Bukhari and J. Williman