



## Collective Worship Policy

*'Inspiring a learning community for all'*

**Date of policy: October 2014**

**Responsibility: Headteacher**

**Date of 2<sup>nd</sup> review: October 2017**

**Date of Review: November 2020**

### **1 The Legal Framework**

- All pupils should take part in daily Collective Worship, although parents can withdraw their children if they wish
- There may be a single act of worship or separate acts for pupils in different age groups
- Responsibility for arranging school worship rests with the headteacher after consultation with the governing body
- Teachers are not to be discriminated against on the grounds of their religious opinions or practice in participating or not participating in acts of worship

### **2 The nature of collective worship**

- Collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', meaning that worship should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief
- It is not necessary for every act of worship to be of this character, but the majority of acts must be so
- Any such worship should not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination
- An act of worship that is broadly Christian need not contain only Christian material provided that, taken as a whole, it reflects the traditions of Christian belief
- Acts of worship should take into account pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds
- The South Gloucestershire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education's view is as follows: *'We favour a broad definition of worship which allows children to reflect upon their shared human experience and feelings of joy and sadness, thankfulness and need, their reflections on shared values and concerns and the explorations of the spiritual area of experience. These experiences and attitudes can also lead to a fuller and more mature capacity for worship.'*

### **3 Organization of collective worship**

We hold daily acts of collective worship in our school. This is made up of Monday, Wednesday Friday whole school assemblies, and key stage assemblies on Tuesday and Thursday. **On alternate Thursdays we are visited by Open the Book Christian worship for FS/KS1 and KS2.**

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We encourage the children to develop an understanding that assembly times are periods of calm, involving reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children attempt to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to 'look, listen and think' as they enter assembly to help create an atmosphere of stillness. They are then encouraged to listen carefully to the assembly and participate fully in prayer, reflection, periods of silence and singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles, pictures or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

A range of adults conduct assembly including the head teacher or other members of staff, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

We take the themes of our worship from the school values and British values and we reflect 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.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assembly offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements and efforts both in and out of school. They play an

important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements and efforts are recognised. Longwell Green is a very successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assembly.

We invite parents to assemblies on special occasions, for example family assemblies, and we encourage them 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 at any time.

#### **4 Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assemblies. 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 1998 Education Reform Act.

The R.E. leader keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

#### **5 Monitoring and review**

The headteacher is responsible for collective worship. The policy will be monitored through maintaining a log of assembly themes. This policy is formally reviewed every three years by staff and governors (Children and Families Committee).