



The Grove Junior School

Collective Worship Policy

Date adopted by the Governing Body:

Date amended: January 2016

Date for review: January 2018

Headteacher: Maggie Clifford

Chair of Governors: Kathy Hilton

Held by: School Improvement Committee.

The Grove Junior School Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- a) To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God or a Higher Being;
 - b) To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
 - c) To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
 - d) To encourage participation and response;
 - e) To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
 - f) To promote a caring ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes, working towards the development of the whole child.
 - g) To provide an opportunity of reflection for the children.
 - h) To enable the children to explore important values of community and country.

2 Collective worship

- 2.1 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, and to take the time to reflect.
- 2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. We normally base our assemblies on Christian values. We acknowledge that within our school community there are children from a wide variety of faiths and therefore we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school, including children who have no faith.
- 2.3 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 the wider community.

3 Organisation of collective worship

- 3.1 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 sometimes we also hold separate lower and upper school assemblies.
- 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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer. 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.
- 3.3 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the values of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar, as well as festivals from other faiths. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes 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 assemblies by showing their work to the 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 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. **The Grove Junior School** is a successful school and we value the opportunity to celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

4 **Right of withdrawal**

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship. The school will make arrangements to ensure a duty of care for the child during this time. The Headteacher will hold a record of any children who withdraw from collective worship. 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.

5 **Monitoring and review**

It is the role of the governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.