Uxendon Manor Primary School

# Policy on Collective Worship

## 1 Aims and objectives

1.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to enable children to consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;

## 2 Collective worship

2.1 Collective worship pays due regard to statutory requirements and involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

2.2 To ensure collective worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

2.3 The school has been granted the SACRE exemption from the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. We do, however, follow guidance offered by the LA and conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.4 We hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of a variety of religions 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. This usually takes place in the school hall or the classrooms. Acts of collective workshop vary throughout the week and usually take place in our different kinds of assemblies – infant, junior, key stage, whole school, music, celebration, special and class depending on the day and occasion. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Weekly assembly themes including special occasions and events along with termly assembly rotas will be shared with staff. This ensures that there is continuity and progression, and enables the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

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 fully in reflections, thoughts and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the Headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by visitors. They are usually fifteen minutes in length with the exception of celebration, class and special assemblies which are longer. On days when there are no assemblies it is the expectation that teachers plan a period of collective worship in their class.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of different faiths, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of various religious calendars. 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. We believe that Uxendon Manor Primary School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

3.6 Every Friday, we hold a 'Celebration Assembly'. Each class is expected to lead the assembly once a year – their 'Class Assembly'. Parents and carers are invited to attend. 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. Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

## 4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of collective worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of collective worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

## 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 every year by the Curriculum and Standards committee of the Governing Body.

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| **Headteacher:** | | **Date:** | March 2016 |
| **Chair of Governing Body:** | | **Date:** | March 2016 |

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