



# IRON ACTON CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Collective Worship policy POLICY

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>COMMITTEE</b>        | Standards and Achievement |
| <b>LAST REVIEW DATE</b> | December 2017             |
| <b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b> | December 2019             |
| <b>REVIEW CYCLE</b>     | Bi-Annually               |

## **Rationale**

An effective collective worship policy enables pupils to strengthen their own values and beliefs and places them within a structured framework. It also enables them to learn a responsible way of considering and respecting the values and beliefs of others.

As a voluntary controlled school, our collective worship is based on strong Christian traditions and values.

At Iron Acton, Collective Worship should:

- be inspiring and transformational
- include a range of creative opportunities such as music, silence, symbol and drama
- develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school

## **Aims**

- To enable pupils to develop an understanding, appreciation and respect for other people: their needs, values and beliefs.
- To foster a sense of fellowship, bringing the school community together to share meaningful and significant experiences.
- To help pupils develop a sense of personal identity and value so that they become confident, independent and well-rounded individuals.
- To provide pupils with basic knowledge of Christian festivals and traditions with particular emphasis on those of the Anglican denomination.
- To help pupils become aware of what it means to belong to a Christian community and follow a Christian lifestyle, whilst recognising and valuing the range of faiths and beliefs that are held by people around the world.
- To establish a regular time for quiet reflection.
- To create an atmosphere where pupils are encouraged to engage in a sense of awe and wonder.
- To reflect upon and promote shared moral values and high standards of positive behaviour.
- To provide a forum for providing support in times of sadness.
- To celebrate achievements within the school and in the wider community.
- To recognise the positive impact and difference that famous people past and present have made and make.
- To develop an appreciation of and respect for the environment and develop a sense of responsibility for it.
- To encourage spiritual development and celebrate our Christian distinctiveness.

## **Broad guidelines**

- The school has a daily act of worship which is broadly Christian character.

- Each act will be clearly timetabled and separated from other curriculum areas, school activities and assemblies.
- Although there is no legally defined time allocation most worship will last around 15 minutes.
- Acts of collective worship may be whole school, class or key stage.
- Acts of collective worship will follow a 2 year cycle based on the 'Roots and Fruits' resource which is rooted in Biblical teaching.
- Parents/carers will be kept informed of the termly value through the school newsletter
- In addition to the termly value, other acts of collective worship will be held to ensure pupils are aware of the main Christian festivals, including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Trinity Sunday.
- Pupils will be given opportunities to reflect upon shared feelings of joy, sadness human experiences and worldly concerns.
- Every effort will be made to emphasise the specialness of the occasion.
- There will be a variety of formats including stories, drama, poetry, music.
- Collective worship might include a time for adult input, a time for silent reflection, a time for prayer, a time for active involvement through music or speech and will encourage pupil involvement; sometimes it will be purely pupil led.
- Opportunities will be taken to hold collective worship at St James the Less Church at least once every term.
- Parents, carers, families and governors will be invited to all church services and school based collective worship as appropriate.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. This must be discussed with the head teacher first. However, the content and delivery of all acts must be inclusive and minimise the need for this right to be exercised.
- Visitors will be encouraged into school to participate in or lead acts of collective worship. Members of the "Open the Book " team will deliver a weekly worship to Reception / Year 1.
- A representative from the local clergy will be invited into school and other local Christian groups such as Regenerate and Open Air Campaigners will visit.
- Acts of collective worship will reflect the school's equal opportunities policy.
- The collective worship team will meet 2-3 times each term to discuss collective worship, its content and delivery. They will have the opportunity to plan and lead acts of worship on a regular basis.

#### Pattern of worship

Each act of worship follows a pattern; this is based around the 'Windows, Mirrors, Doors' approach and involves children in learning something new

(window), reflecting on what they have learnt (mirror) and responding to it (door).

At the beginning there is a welcome which includes the lighting of a candle and a greeting such as 'Peace be with you' to which the children respond 'and also with you'. A Bible passage or story is also introduced.

After this, children learn something new through the opening up of the Bible story. This might include drama, visual images, poetry or puppetry.

The children then have an opportunity to reflect on how the Bible story or passage may have challenged them or resonated with them. Children may be asked to think about a question.

Finally, children are invited to respond as they step out and play their part in making a difference to the world.

### **Monitoring**

The foundation Governors will work alongside the Headteacher to monitor and evaluate acts of collective worship as part of the monitoring and evaluation cycle.

Link Governor will ensure acts of collective worship are timetabled and delivered in accordance with statutory requirements.

A copy of the half term plan will be sent to each foundation Governor.