

*Shirehampton Primary School*  
**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**Rationale**

Collective worship has a central place in determining the ethos of the school. Pupils should have the opportunity to worship, consider spiritual and moral issues, explore beliefs and celebrate traditions.

**Purposes**

Collective worship should offer the children and the school community the opportunity to:

- make thoughtful and reflective responses together to shared ideas or values of spiritual worth within the broad tradition of Christian belief and the beliefs of other religions.
- contribute to the spiritual development of all pupils and the school community
- experience some of the Christian traditions, and those of other religions
- participate and celebrate in the sharing of festive and memorable occasions from various cultures and traditions
- share what is meaningful and significant
- reflect on the awe and wonder of the world
- reflect on their own and other people's value as individuals
- recognise their responsibility for themselves, other people and the world
- develop empathy with others
- recognise that an individual's actions are determined by their beliefs
- recognise the religious response to ultimate questions, and seek their own
- appreciate the significance of sacred writing, symbols and rituals in the lives of believers

**Principles**

The Governors and the headteacher are responsible for collective worship.

Collective worship should:

- take place daily
- be broadly Christian in character, also respecting other faiths and traditions
- be inclusive
- be educational – it may relate to any part of the curriculum, but in a particular way to Religious Education
- have a sense of occasion
- give opportunities for participation
- give time for silent reflection, without prayer being insisted upon
- provide a variety of forms of expression eg. art, drama, music and story, and give the pupils the opportunity to interpret for themselves
- stimulate children to reflect on the world around them and help develop their own spirituality
- allow for children to be at different stages of spiritual development and give them the opportunity to respond and participate at their own level
- take place in an environment conducive to worship
- be professionally coordinated and properly resourced
- not be an occasion for evangelism or indoctrination

**Practices**

- ❖ All children will take part in the daily act of collective worship; this may be as a whole school, key stage, phase group or class.
- ❖ There is a programme of themes planned over the year.
- ❖ Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship, although it is hoped that with sensitive and thoughtful planning this will not be an issue. In such circumstances parents are asked to provide work for their child during this time.

- ❖ Although it is hoped that staff will feel able to participate, they have the right to withdraw from collective worship.
- ❖ Visitors from the local community will regularly be invited to lead collective worship; our principles will be shared with them.

***Progress of Policy***

<i>Agreed with staff</i>	<i>Agreed with governors</i>	<i>Review date</i>	<i>Reviewed</i>	<i>Review date</i>	<i>Reviewed</i>
			2017		