

Collective Worship Policy
ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL
Reviewed by Senior Leadership Team: June 2021
Review date: June 2024

1 Aims and purpose

- 1.1** The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
 - to enable children to consider spiritual and moral 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;
 - to provide the opportunity for our children to respond to the worship offered.

2 Collective worship

- 2.1** We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship 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** In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3** Assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community are also held.
- 2.4** All children regardless of their religious culture, race, gender, lifestyle or ability will be given equal opportunity to access this part of the school's curriculum.

3 Organisation of collective worship

- 3.1** We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.
- 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 and hymns. 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** Members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but occasionally local clergy, representatives of local religious groups or other visitors conduct them instead.
- 3.4** We take some of the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often 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. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes.
- 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. Abbotswood School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- 3.6** We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** All children attend assembly however, parents have the right to withdraw their child 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 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2** Notice to withdraw a child from religious worship must be sent to the Head teacher.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** SLT and Year Leaders plan and monitor the content of collective worship.
- 5.2** The policy is reviewed by our governing body's Curriculum and Standards Committee every three years.