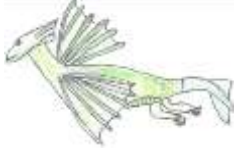


**BOREHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**A Friendship School**

*'Daring to aim high, scale new heights, spread our wings and fly far'*



# **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY MARCH 2021**

Staff Consulted: 1.3.21

Approved by Governing Body: 22.3.21

Next Review Date: February 2024

# Boreham Primary School Collective Worship Policy

## **Introduction**

This Policy Document is intended to form an agreed approach to Collective Worship within Boreham Primary School and should be read in conjunction with the general aims of the school. Other school policies that link closely to the collective worship policy are the: Inclusion Policy, RE Policy and the PSHE Policy. The main entitlements and responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship are encompassed within this document. It contains four main elements - legal requirements, aims, objectives and strategies.

## **The Legal Requirements**

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires all registered pupils in a school to 'take part in an act of collective worship on each school day'. This does not apply to children whose parents have exercised the right of withdrawal from the act of collective worship. Teachers also have the right not to attend acts of collective worship. However, both pupils and teachers may be required to attend an assembly, which is distinct from collective worship.
- Most acts of collective worship in any school term must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', reflecting the broad traditions of Christian beliefs, but they must not be denominational. Collective worship must take into account the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of all the pupils in the school. A school act of collective worship is not the same as an act of corporate worship in a faith community
- The act of collective worship can take place at any time in the school day, and does not necessarily need to involve the whole school gathering together for a single act of worship. Groupings for collective worship may be those deemed appropriate by the school i.e. classes, year groups or the whole school. However, such groupings must be those used at other times in the school day and not just special groupings for the act of collective worship.
- The act of collective worship should be educationally appropriate, building on the experiences of the children in the context of a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
- A school assembly is not necessarily an act of collective worship, although the latter can be incorporated into an assembly. It should not be merely passive, but capable of eliciting some response from pupils.

## **Aims and Objectives**

### **Aims**

- An important aim of our school is to promote the children's spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development and this aim is incorporated into our acts of collective worship. We also aim to provide opportunities for those who wish to worship God to do so and for all to

be given the opportunity to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.

- In collective worship we also aim to establish shared values such as tolerance, respect and a sense of community where everyone is included and valued. In our acts of collective worship, we provide an occasion to express and celebrate our school's aims, identity and values.
- We also aim to provide opportunities for reflection. Reflection time will be linked to the themes of the assemblies and will be planned to ensure that the children have time for reflection and personal response to matters which are significant to themselves, to others and to the world in general.

***"Collective worship should be a special time with its own distinctive atmosphere, one that is conducive to spiritual activities such as contemplation, quiet reflection and, for those whom it is appropriate prayer" (SACRE 2013)***

### **Objectives**

- To develop attitudes leading to openness with regard to a religious interpretation of life and respect for those with differing views.
- To acquire knowledge and understanding of basic religious phenomena and the fact that people's beliefs have consequences for their lives.
- To widen the children's experience so that they become aware of their own developing identity, how other people live and worship and what is involved in being a member of a group.

### **Strategies**

These provide a summary of current practice and illustrate how this area is provided for and presented in this school.

Acts of collective worship can take place during the school week in a variety of groups and locations, although they usually take place in the hall with either the whole school or split into key stages. They are conducted at various times by the Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher and other members of staff. We encourage speakers and visitors of all denominations to take part and lead assemblies.

A whole school assembly is held twice a week in which an act of worship is combined with a buddy assembly and a celebration of achievement assembly. Children are split into their Key Stages for singing assembly and a collective act of worship lead by a different teacher each week.

Themes are arranged on a termly basis taking into account any festivals or religious events which occur. The theme is followed in the majority of whole school assemblies during that week.

At Boreham Primary school we hold our termly Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Year 6 leavers' assembly at St Andrew's Church, Boreham. We also hold an annual school celebration service at the church focusing on themes such as 'What does Heaven Look Like' and 'Aspirations'.

At Boreham Primary School we feel that effective planning is essential to ensure that all children are given the opportunity to experience collective acts of worship that are appropriate to their age and needs. Supervision is provided for children whose parents have requested that they are withdrawn from the act of collective worship.

### **Inclusion**

Boreham Primary School is an inclusive school. OFSTED defines an educationally inclusive school as "one in which the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and wellbeing of every young person matter."

### **Content**

The content of these collective acts of worship is broadly Christian in character, but can and does include material taken from other sources which are not exclusively Christian, i.e. stories from other faiths and secular material which reflects Christian values. The Essex Agreed Syllabus for R.E. is sometimes used as a source of R.E. material that can be incorporated into collective acts of worship. Music is also included, in the form of hymns, songs and excerpts from music of different traditions. Material is selected carefully with regard to its appropriateness for the children involved, so that it leads to understanding rather than confusion and misunderstanding. Content is selected so that all participants can share without feeling uncomfortable or compromised.

The actual content of the assembly is left to the discretion of individual members of staff, although common themes are followed. A summary record is kept of the content of the acts of collective worship, thus enabling the school to monitor and evaluate the experience being offered to the children and to ensure that these are meaningful and valuable. It is expected that on some occasions the teaching staff will be present for the act of collective worship. However the school respects the legal right of those members of staff who for reasons of conscience do not wish to conduct acts of collective worship, or to participate in them, to withdraw.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

In common with all school policies, this policy is constantly under review, in order that the law is complied with and the children are offered experiences of quality that are relevant to their own lives. It is the responsibility of the collective act of worship co-ordinator, headteacher and governors to monitor and evaluate the provision of resources, planning and practice in collective worship. Monitoring and evaluation is carried out through spending time in classrooms, in dialogue and in overseeing and reviewing the planning and resources available.

This policy document will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis and any necessary revisions incorporated. A major review will be made to fit in with the School Development Plan every 3 years.