

GRANGE INFANT SCHOOL **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Rationale:

“Collective worship should offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence; consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives; think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community; and appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them. Collective worship also offers an opportunity to re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate the various achievements of members of the community that are held to be of worth. If collective worship is genuinely to stimulate reflection and growth, it needs to involve all members of the community. This involvement requires planning, and it is important that schools can demonstrate precisely how collective worship has been planned to promote spiritual and moral development within the framework of the law.”

Spiritual and Moral Development, a discussion paper (April 1993) National Curriculum Council

Aims of Collective Worship

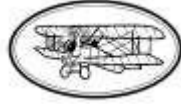
‘Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.’ (Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship, DFE)

We aim to:

- Follow the legal requirements for a daily act of collective worship (Education Act 1993).
- Develop moral, cultural, social values and spiritual awareness.
- Ensure that the majority of worship is of a broadly Christian nature without it being distinctive of any Christian denomination and develop awareness of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and patterns of worship.
- Ensure that ‘taking part’ in collective worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It follows that an act of collective worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, even though on a particular occasion some of the pupils may not feel able actively to identify with the act of worship.
- Provide time for reflection/prayer and stillness within the school day.
- Ensure that collective worship and assembly are two distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear. Collective worship can, nevertheless, be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school by marking and celebrating special occasions and achievements.
- Develop a sense of community and awareness of the wider world.
- Explore feelings of awe, wonder, mystery and joy, with opportunities to participate and respond in a variety of ways.

These will be achieved by:

- Following an annual cycle of Collective Worship themes that are linked to our vision, language of learning, spiritual, moral, social and cultural values.
- Involving members of our local community.
- Providing opportunities for worship in different sized group e.g whole school, class, year group etc.



- Ensuring that there is a daily act of worship with opportunities for stillness/prayer/reflection with a signal for the beginning and end of the reflection to focus their attention.
- Inviting members of the wider community to join our celebrations.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/ren from Collective Worship without having to state their reasons for withdrawal. To avoid misunderstanding the Headteacher will establish with the parents the elements of worship in which the parent would object to their child taking part, the practical implications of withdrawal and whether the parent would require any notice of worship and, if so, how much. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governors to ensure that this policy is carried out. This complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Teachers are required to take and attend assemblies but are not obliged to attend or participate in acts of worship. Any teacher wishing to withdraw from acts of worship needs to discuss this with the Headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Date reviewed: July 2024

Date for next review: July 2025