

The Collective Worship Policy at Sytchampton Endowed First School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA.

### **Definition of Collective Worship**

Assembly is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Sytchampton Endowed First School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

### **For the Pupils:**

We also intend that Assembly contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

### **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However at Sytchampton Endowed First School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings, whole school, classes or small groups and will take place in the school hall, or the classroom. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

## **Leadership**

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts or worship at some point in the school year.

## **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.

## **The Act of Collective Worship**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used (see elements of worship, in appendix). Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc)

## **Withdrawal**

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

## **APPENDIX**

### Elements of Worship

It is important to use the children's world as a link in worship. Children can become involved in the experience of Worship at their own level through the use of:-

drama	spoken word	silence/stillness
illustration	choral speaking	artefact
singing	music	ritual
prayer	communication	mime
movement	reading	dance
story	collaboration	reflection
interaction		