Eversley Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Vision Statement

Enjoy Persevere Succeed
At Eversley Primary School we want all children to *enjoy* school and have a love for learning.

We encourage them to *persevere*, to have self-belief and the determination to *succeed* in all they do in order to be the best they can be.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Collective worship should be regarded as a special experience, separate from the children's everyday experiences. It can therefore be interpreted very openly and widely as an act which brings a school group to a point where they are able to make a shared, reflective response to a divine being, power, ideal or value of some worth, wholly or mainly within the broad traditions of Christian belief on the majority of occasions. Collective worship is not only educational but also spiritual: it widens children's knowledge of the world and gives time for contemplating with reverence and awe the meaning and mystery of human life.

Worship is understood as an act of collective worship in a county school. As a multi-faith and multi-ethnic county school, Eversley Primary School defines collective worship as the joining together of the school population, regardless of their individual beliefs or non-beliefs, to celebrate events and achievements felt to be 'of worth'. Collective worship is seen as an essential part of the school's broadly based and balanced curriculum, our underlying principle being 'the child first and foremost'.

It is a legal requirement under the 1988 Education Reform Act that all schools perform a daily act of collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature without being denominational. All children should be involved in the daily act of worship unless withdrawn by the parent or guardian. Teachers also have the right of withdrawal from collective worship.

AIMS

Through our collective worship we aim:

- To celebrate those things that we feel are of worth to individual pupils, the school and the community as a whole.
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- To introduce children to a variety of faiths, showing children what it is to worship and reaffirming the beliefs of others.
- To promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils as required by the ERA 1988.

CONTENT AND DELIVERY

Through our collective worship we hope to create an atmosphere that promotes thought and reflection and which nurtures pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Collective worship at our school aims to be interesting, informative and educational. A time when ideas and beliefs are explored, discussed and developed. Wherever possible, children are involved in presenting, performing in or responding to collective worship.

Resources such as books, films, video, slides, music and pictures are used to stimulate children together with drama, song, poetry, prayer, readings, story and dance. All of these can enable pupils to gain a deeper understanding of the spiritual dimension of their lives and are seen as steps in the promotion of pupils' spiritual development.

We aim to make the environment in which our assemblies take place comfortable and stimulating, with an atmosphere of mutual respect.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

We aim for children to develop a wide range of important and valuable skills and attitudes such as understanding, empathy, self-esteem and responsibility

- recognising the existence of others as independent to oneself
- becoming aware of and reflecting upon experience
- questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- understanding and evaluating a range of possible responses and interpretations
- developing personal views and insights
- applying the insights gained with increasing degrees of perception to one's own life

We have found the above indicators to be useful when monitoring and evaluating assemblies and acts of worship at our school.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

In our monitoring and evaluation of collective worship we look for the following criteria as proof of a successful and worthwhile act of worship:

- A range of strategies are regularly used to 'engage' children's interest
- A peaceful, reflective atmosphere generally prevails
- Children are comfortable with silence
- Children participate confidently and enthusiastically
- Children can articulate what collective worship is about

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All children regardless of race, religion or gender are entitled to attend and participate in the acts of collective worship.

Our assemblies aim to take into consideration the ages and abilities as well as the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of the children in our school.

ORGANISATION

Collective worship is included in planned assemblies and Religious festivals are highlighted and celebrated. Assemblies are usually related to religious festivals, our school values or an upcoming school event. Our School Values based education provides an additional depth to our assemblies.

Weekly Assemblies:

Monday	KS1 – SMT assembly KS2 – SMT assembly
Tuesday	KS1 – Music assembly KS2 – Thank You assembly
Wednesday	KS1 – Staff/Class assembly KS2 – Music assembly
Thursday	KS1 – Thank You assembly KS2 – Staff/class assembly (supported by another member of staff)
Friday	9:15 – Whole school assembly

Whole School Assembly celebrates the success of pupils. Certificates are awarded and the children collect these and receive praise from the rest of the school. *Superstars of the Week* are also praised by all during this assembly. Whole School Assembly ends with a song chosen by Mrs Evans, the Music coordinator, followed by JAM (Just a Minute)- a moment of mindfulness. All staff; teaching and support staff attend Whole School Assembly.

- Parents are invited to class assemblies which should be held termly.

RECORD KEEPING

There is an Assembly Diary for KS1 and KS2 which outlies the area of focus for each daily assembly.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that daily acts of collective worship take place.

The R.E. coordinator is responsible for:
- ensuring that collective worship explores the values and beliefs shared by Christians and other world religions,
- monitoring quality of delivery,

The teacher is responsible for:
- planning and delivering their assembly;
- meeting the requirements of the law;
- adding their assembly overview to the assembly diary.
- attending assemblies when requested.

It is recognised that any teacher has the right to withdraw from assemblies.

RESOURCES

The school has a varied selection of resources, such as videos, CDs and books, which are kept in the R.E. resource room. It is the responsibility of the R.E. coordinator to ensure that the resources are organised and updated and that the teachers are made aware of the resources available.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring is a regular and ongoing process, with those responsible being the head teacher, R.E. coordinator and members of the Senior Management Team, as well as the school governors. Any of the above individuals may attend assemblies in rotation and evaluate and discuss any issues that arise with the R.E. coordinator and/or the person leading the collective worship.

Evaluation strategies currently used by the above include:

- Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions
- Classroom feedback from pupils (verbal)
- Observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another
- Pupil interviews.

RE Coordinator.
June 2017

DATE POLICY AGREED: September 2009

DATE POLICY REVIEWED: June 2017 (last review date)

NEXT REVIEW DATE: June 2018