



| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| POLICY TITLE: | COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY |
| REVISED: | 29 th April 2016 |
| NEXT REVIEW DATE: | Spring / 2019 |
| APPROVED BY COMMITTEE: | Pupil Matters Committee |

1. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND THE LAW

Lambs Lane School's Collective Worship policy has been drawn up in agreement with the main requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act. Within this Act it is recognised that all registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right of withdrawal) must 'on each school day take part in an act of collective worship'. (Teachers may also exercise the right to withdraw from collective worship). It is acknowledged that such an act of worship can take place on the school premises at any time during the school day and that pupils can be grouped in various ways. Most acts of worship will be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, and will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief, without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination'.

2. AIMS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- To enable pupils to explore and participate in a variety of forms of worship.
- To enable pupils to use silence for stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation and, if appropriate, prayer.
- To heighten pupils' awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life, and of the beliefs held and commitments made by themselves and others in response to such questions.
- To make explicit and to celebrate what has meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, for the school and for the wider community.
- To develop a sense of community within the school, and of being part of a wider community.
- To celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect of individuals, the school and the wider community.
- To celebrate difference and diversity.
- To heighten aesthetic awareness and to enable pupils to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.

3. PROVISION THROUGH DAILY ASSEMBLIES

- ❑ Assemblies will relate to pupils' experiences and concerns, and will acknowledge diversity. Pupils will be encouraged to be active participants, and it is aimed that it will foster the sense of a school community, encouraging the ideas of shared values, identity, perception, outlook and purpose. At the same time, pupils will not be placed in the position where they are made to feel uneasy or not respected. For a minority of pupils whose parents have requested they are withdrawn from acts of worship, then alternative, supervised arrangements will be made.
- ❑ Assemblies will be based around relevant themes and topics to ensure that they are learning experiences of real quality. Links will be made with other curricular activities where appropriate and meaningful, and will naturally complement some of the work done in Religious Education, SEAL, PSHE and Citizenship. Sharing Assemblies will provide the whole school with opportunities to reflect on their own educational purpose and to celebrate a range of educational achievements.
- ❑ There will be no place for evangelism and indoctrination in the school's assemblies.
- ❑ Assemblies will also be used to encourage a time to gather and be still, encouraging a time of reflection and peace in contrast to the whirl of school activity. Pupils will be encouraged to enter and leave assembly times quietly.
- ❑ Assemblies will provide opportunities for spiritual activities, playing music and musical instruments, singing, drama and quiet contemplation. Those leading assemblies will be sensitive to the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family background, and will provide opportunities for pupils to take part in worship.

4. DELIVERING ASSEMBLIES

- ❑ Staff will work together on topics according to a cycle of themes. Throughout, these themes will be introduced, developed and explored, drawing upon a wide range of appropriate materials and resources such as the spoken word, the sung word, visual stimuli, performances and music. On occasions, pupils may be asked to contribute to this.
- ❑ School assemblies take place every day at 3.10pm, except on Fridays when the Sharing Assembly starts at 3pm. These take a variety of formats, reflecting differences and diversity, both within our community and outside it. Friday's Sharing Assembly is led by a class which shares the work that it has been doing. Parents are invited and awards are given out to celebrate achievements.
- ❑ Some assemblies will be complimented by visits from people and leaders in the outside community who will be sensitive to the school's aims of collective worship. These visiting speakers will receive notice of our aims and current themes in advance, so as to maintain continuity.