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# Lanesend Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy Statutory Policy

Signed: ..... Date:  
(Headteacher)

Signed: ..... Date:  
(Chair of Governors)

**Review Date:** March 2019 (Every 2 Years)  
**Reviewed By:** Curriculum Lead Manager for Religious  
Education / Full Governing Body

# Lanesend Primary Collective Worship Policy

## **Aims and Purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enhancing children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness through self-reflection;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

## **Collective Worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence and adoration for a deity. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ, traditions of the Christian Church and British values. Our collective worship often involves reflection on the things, or principles, that give children's lives meaning, for instance, reflecting on the principles of agape (unconditional, selfless love), compassion and empathy or the spiritual richness of historical figures. We also focus on the importance of community cohesion, the awe and wonder of life and the beauty of the natural world.

We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of collective reflection in our school, this forms part of each assembly. Reception class does not attend assembly every day but has its own time of reflection in class. On one occasion per week we hold a music assembly. This is always ended with a moment of quiet reflective thought. Our Friday Celebration Assembly is based around celebrating success during the week both in and out of school.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in songs and thoughts. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or any other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Headteacher or other members of the teaching staff normally conduct assemblies, but on occasions an external visitor may lead the session. On a Thursday, the Baptist Church takes the assemblies from stories of the bible and once a month, the vicar from Gurnard Church will also take assembly. We encourage representations from all faiths.

We take the themes of our assemblies from our yearly overview of values that supports the Christian faith. We often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes over a year to reflect our curriculum planning, the needs of our community, the Social and Emotional learning needs programme and the religious calendar.

Our assemblies are also valuable occasions to reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. At Lanesend Primary School we like to celebrate the successes of all the children publicly.

We invite parents to assembly on a weekly basis, and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly, however, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was re-stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The implementation of this policy is monitored and reviewed by the Governing body; through direct discussion with the Headteacher, staff or pupils, and/or by being in attendance on occasions throughout the year.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.