

# KILLINGHALL CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Collective Worship Policy



### Rationale

As a Christian Church school we place great emphasis upon the role of collective worship in school. Collective Worship takes place every day and is acknowledged to be an important part of school life and as such is shared by staff and pupils alike.

Our policy recognises that individuals whether pupils or staff, will have a range of different beliefs, attitudes and stand points. There are those who come from families with a sense of personal belief or commitment and those who may not share in any particular religious belief. We aim to provide opportunities for all to share, in a way which makes sense to them and is appropriate to their stage of development.

Assemblies are led by the teaching staff and regular visitors, including those from the church, foundation Governors and visitors ie charity assemblies, links to theme etc.

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish. We believe that collective worship should be INCLUSIVE, EDUCATIONAL and SPIRITUAL.

In planning the collective worship policy the school has taken into account the following issues and has tried to provide:

- An effective and evolving pattern of themes for collective worship;
- Links to our school values
- Links to other religions
- Links to themed weeks and events
- Links to world and home news
- Links to our Ethiopia link school
- Conceptual coherence and material appropriate to the age and stage of development of the pupils
- The flexibility to respond to changing circumstances both in and out of school.

The school has included a range of types of worship:

- Staff led;
- Assemblies led by visitor;
- Pupil involvement, with the Collective Worship Group regularly leading
- Times of celebration
- Opportunities for reflection and quiet
- Storytelling, including stories from the bible
- The creative and expressive arts
- The sharing of knowledge, information and achievement
- Exploration of biblical text and the use of symbolism.

The school addresses multi-faith issues through our assemblies, focusing in particular on Christianity, Judaism and Hinduism. Collective worship is seen as an important time to share the ethos of the school and create links with the wider global community.

### Aims for Collective Worship

The school endeavours to promote through an understanding of spiritual, moral, social, cultural development

- Wonder in the presence of the marvels of the natural world;
- Delight at being alive in the modern world with all it means and offers;
- Expression of emotions and feelings;
- A sense of fellowship between people;
- Attitudes, behaviour and responsibilities towards others, reflecting the school ethos of tolerance, support and understanding;
- Admiration for the human virtues of decency, honesty, self-sacrifice, courage etc;
- Concern at the sight of cruelty, injustice, exploitation etc;

- Appreciation of beauty, truth and love.
- An understanding of the diverse nature of the world and our community.
- Reflections on spiritual writing, music, words and works of art contribute to this. Material derived from the Christian traditions will help to ensure the Christian character of most of the worship, whilst the writings from the other world's religions enrich the pupils' knowledge and understanding.
- Opportunities for singing, dancing, drama, sharing food and drink, prayer, contemplation and meditation increase spiritual awareness.
- Opportunities or spaces for individual reflection and a variety of Individual's responses including worship. Often this will be facilitated by the use of purposeful silence.

#### **We will provide:**

- A special time with a distinctive spiritual atmosphere conducive to worship.
- Appropriate music to create an ambience.
- A thinking and reflection table placed at the front of the hall for collective worship.
- An interactive collective worship display board for pupils and staff to record the worship sessions and comments.
- A calm, relaxed and secure atmosphere for all taking part.
- Consideration to the manner of entering and leaving the assembly as well as the sitting arrangements.
- An opportunity for pupils and staff to be included.

#### **Planning Collective Worship**

Planning for worship will take into account major events.

These events may be;

- Religious (festivals, special times, saint's days etc).
- Secular (local, national, global).
- Commemorative.
- Special events in life of school.
- Topics and other curricular activity being undertaken.
- Linked to the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship curriculum.
- Linked to the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning curriculum

A planned calendar will help to determine themes, but others will stand on their own.

#### **Content and Approach**

- Celebration of the festivals of Christianity;
- Information on major festivals and other faiths;
- Presentation of bible stories;
- Topical materials from local and national news;
- Literature with implicit and explicit religious or moral teaching;
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements, work of ourselves and others;
- Prayer in different forms – formal, children's own, silence and meditation.

Children enter and leave the place of collective worship to appropriate music. They are expected to sit quietly and be attentive. The worship has a hymn and a prayer.

Parents are invited to our special sharing and celebration collective worship at the end of each half term.

At Christmas and Harvest time the school has special celebrations to which parents and members of the wider community are invited. These are held in St. Thomas Church