

Toll Bar Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

1 Rationale

- 1.1 A daily act of worship is obligatory under the 1988 Education Act. It may take place at any time of the day. These daily acts of worship are to be over any school terms as a whole, wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character. Parents have the right to withdraw children from the daily act of worship. Where pupils are withdrawn and remain on school premises the school retains the responsibility for their health and safety. Staff also have the right to withdraw.

2 Aims and purpose

- 2.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
 - 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 common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
 - to teach children how to worship
 - to allow time to reflect on matters of concern to individuals, the school and the wider community
 - to develop listening skills, being still, appreciating thinking, valuing and caring.

3 Collective worship

- 3.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- 3.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church and look at other religions and beliefs in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 3.3 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.

4 Organization of collective worship

- 4.1 We aim to hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This can form part of assembly, which is sometimes a whole-school assembly and sometimes separate key stage assemblies to allow age aptitude to be considered on time in class.
- 4.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly 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 and participate in prayer and hymns. We may create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or

other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

- 4.3 The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. These visits must not compromise anyone's beliefs but should be organised to be a beneficial experience for all concerned.
- 4.4 We take the themes of our assemblies and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar e.g. Easter, Christmas. We may plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.
- 4.5 Our assemblies 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.
- 4.6 We invite parents to special assemblies 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.
- 4.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

5 Right of withdrawal

- 5.1 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 restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 5.2 The headteacher will keep a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Date of Review: November 2010

Date of Next Review: November 2012

Signed:

Date: