

# Queensgate Foundation Primary School



## Collective Worship

September 2017

Working together for a successful future



**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**  
**Queensgate Foundation Primary School**

**Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Board on an annual basis.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Board on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

It is due for review on *Autumn 2020* (up to 36 months from the above date).

Signature *Sillit* ..... Head Teacher      Date *6/10/2017* .....

Signature *R. With* ..... Chair of Governors      Date *10/10/17* .....



At Queensgate Foundation Primary School we believe that in our collective worship, when all members of the school come together, we try to create an occasion which produces a variety of responses, one of which is worship. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God.

We acknowledge the 1988 Education Reform Act which clearly states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Therefore, we base all our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the tradition of the Christian Church.

However, we believe we must conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. Therefore, throughout the academic year we will hold assemblies that reflect other religions as we want all children to feel included whatever their beliefs or background.

We would like everyone to take an active part in our collective worship but we are aware that teachers have the right to withdraw from the religious element of collective worship. We acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship.

We acknowledge that children's entitlement to Acts of Collective Worship should not be affected by gender, culture, race or special needs. We will ensure that there are no barriers to this equality of opportunity.

## **AIMS**

- To ensure that all pupils take part in acts of worship of a wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- To provide all pupils with an opportunity to worship God.
- To show pupils how to worship by participating and responding.
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To promote and embed a common ethos with shared values and positive attitudes.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **Role of the Governing Body**

The GB has:

- responsibility to ensure that the school complies with this policy;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure collective worship takes place in the school;
- nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the coordinator and to report back to the GB;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

### **Role of the Headteacher**

The Headteacher will:

- ensure that collective worship takes place in the school;
- nominate a member of staff to be responsible for the organisation and development of this policy but is aware that teachers cannot be directed to conduct collective worship;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy





## Role of Pupils

During assembly time we encourage pupils to be:

- dignified and respectful;
- calm and reflective
- able to behave in an appropriate manner;
- quiet, thoughtful and to listen carefully

We want children to participate not only in the hymns and prayers but to show their work and to raise issues that they have discussed in class.

## Organisation

- There will be regular assemblies taking place at various times during the school week, which will take on a variety of forms including whole school across age phase, circle time, key stage, class and focus learner
- There will be occasions when worship, because of unforeseen circumstances, will take place in individual classrooms and will be conducted by class teachers

## Length, Time and Pace

- We are aware that we have to fulfil a statutory amount of teacher-pupil contact time namely 22.5 hours for infants and 23.5 hours for juniors. Collective worship is not included in this time. Therefore, our collective worship will be kept to 15 minutes with several minutes being allowed for the pupils coming in making a maximum of no more than 20 minutes.

## Composition

- Music – taped/CD music should be played at the beginning and end of collective worship which, if possible, fits in with the theme for the week.
- Hymns – should be chosen to reflect the theme for the week or the day. Taped hymn singing will be used for the children to sing along with when it is not possible to use piano accompaniment
- Prayers – the children should be introduced to several prayers which will be used at relevant times throughout the academic year
- Provider – the provider may be the Headteacher, Deputy Head, class teacher, pupils, vicar or outside speaker
- Theme – the theme to follow will be that planned by the co-ordinator

## Activities

In planning collective acts of worship we must bear in mind the following activities:

- Singing, readings and storytelling, rituals, drama, music for listening, responses, audio-visual presentation, interviews, symbols, prayer, dance, visiting, speakers and cooking



## **Planning the Year**

When planning the year the co-ordinator will think carefully about the inclusion of the following:

- High days and holidays
- Saint Days
- Feasting for Festivals
- World Faiths
- National
- World Events

Planning for the academic year will take place before the end of each half term and all staff will then be given a year plan of the proposed collective acts of worship.

## **Involvement of Local Religious Groups**

We believe that the involvement of local religious groups is vital to the development of our pupils. Therefore, speakers from local religious groups will be invited to speak to our pupils when we celebrate collective worship.

## **Involvement of Others**

We actively encourage the involvement of outside speakers such as the local Police, lollipop lady etc. who will be invited to take an active part in our collective worship on a set theme.

## **Involvement of Parents**

Parents will be invited to attend their child's class assemblies which take place once every academic year.

## **Achievements Assembly**

An Achievements Assembly is an occasion when the whole school meets to share together the successes and achievements of individual pupils either in or out of school and birthdays are celebrated.

## **Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Policy**

Annually the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed, or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the governors.

