

## **STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **ENGAYNE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **THE STATUTORY PLACE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

In accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act, all pupils at a school take part each day in an act of collective worship.

Please refer to the Havering Statement on Collective Worship for further information.

#### **AIMS**

Acts of worship are mainly of a Christian outlook and reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.

The aim of collective worship is to:

- undertake the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the pupils, and prepare them for the experiences, opportunities and responsibilities of life;
- celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect to individuals, the school and the wider community;
- achieve effectiveness in developing each child's full potential, we aim to provide a time when pupils can enjoy being part of a larger group, reflecting upon and sharing ideas and thoughts with the wider school community.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Links are made with the aims of the school and with the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum. Assembly themes have associated stories and activities that address the three core themes of the PSHE curriculum, which are health and well-being, relationships and living on the wider world.
- Collective worship also gives an explicit opportunity for the promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) learning, through themed stories and activities which cover the following areas:
  - spiritual: an exploration of beliefs and experience; respect for faiths, feelings and values; enjoyment of learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use of imagination and creativity; opportunities for reflection.
  - moral; an exploration of the concepts of right and wrong; respect for the law; understanding consequences; investigating moral and ethical issues; offering reasoned views.
  - social: investigating moral issues; appreciating diverse viewpoints; engaging with the fundamental values of British democracy.

- cultural: appreciating cultural influences; appreciating the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participating in culture opportunities; understanding, accepting, respecting and celebrating diversity.
- Collective worship will be related to the pupils' own experience and will be relevant to their needs.
- Pupils will be active participants as much as possible, and will be given opportunities within assemblies and following them to assess their understanding.
- Collective worship will provide a time for reflection and stillness.
- Collective worship will not simply be watered-down versions of worship in faith communities.
- Pupils and staff will not be placed in positions where they are made uneasy or where their integrity is called into question.

## **CONTENT**

- Collective worship will often include:
  - work produced by pupils;
  - stories and activities, which support the school's PSHE curriculum and SMSC activities;
  - the sung word - hymns, modern songs;
  - dance, movement, drama, mime;
  - opportunities for silence - prayer, reflective, contemplation and meditation.
- During the year, we will consider the Christian festivals of Christmas, Lent, Easter and Harvest. In addition, we will explore festivals celebrated by other faiths (e.g. Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism), such as Diwali, Pesach and Ramadan, through which parallels with Christianity can be drawn.

## **TIMETABLE**

- There will be one celebratory assembly per week taken by the head or deputy Headteacher. This assembly will recognise and celebrate pupils' achievements in writing and other areas of their work.
- Another assembly per week, focused on the sung word, will be taken by a member of staff.
- Each class will produce an assembly termly, one of which parents will be invited to attend.

- In addition, at Key Stage 2, one assembly every three weeks will be a celebration of work produced by the pupils themselves. This will be led by pupils from each year group, on a rota basis.
- The remaining assemblies will be taken by all other members of staff on a rota basis. These will include assemblies that celebrate and inform the pupils about school clubs, events and initiatives.
- There will be one assembly per term in each Key Stage, delivered by a guest who has been invited in from the local community. For example, the local police and/or PCSO.

### **PARENTS' AND TEACHERS' RIGHTS**

- There is no discrimination against teachers on the grounds of their religious opinions, or practice, in participating in acts of collective worship.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their pupils from collective worship if they so wish, but they should be made fully aware of the school's policy on collective worship, and be invited to read this document.
- If parents request religious worship for pupils who have been withdrawn, each request will be dealt with at the time of application and the matter referred to the Governing Body.
- If pupils are withdrawn from collective worship, they will be provided with meaningful assignments.

### **CHRISTIANITY**

- Most acts of worship in any one term must be broadly Christian in character.

### **REVIEW**

- This policy will be reviewed every two years by the teacher responsible for the teaching and learning of the humanities.

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P Fitzpatrick