



## **Ombersley Endowed First School**

### **Policy on Collective Worship**

#### **1 Aims and objectives**

1.1 The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship;
- 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.

#### **2 Collective worship**

- 2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence. 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.
- 2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

#### **3 Organisation of collective worship**

- 3.1 We hold collective worship acts three times per week. This is in the form of whole-school assembly. We hold class assemblies twice per week.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The assemblies are usually led by the headteacher or other Teachers, but are sometimes led by representatives of local religious groups.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and other faiths, moral and ethical issues and Personal, Social, Health and Economic wellbeing (PSHE). We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar and those of other main religions. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. A programme of assemblies is planned at the start of each term.
- 3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and a

weekly Celebration Assembly is held on a Friday. Each week one child from each class is awarded 'Star of the Week' for their work. One child from each class is rewarded a 'Behaviour Medal' for consistently following the school behaviour policy. Assemblies also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Ombersley Endowed First School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

#### **4 Right of withdrawal**

- 4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2 A record is kept of all children who are to be withdrawn from collective worship.

#### **5 Monitoring and review**

- 5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of the Governing Board.
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

**Signed:** *L Stanley*

**Date:** **October 2024**

Date for review: Summer 2026