



# Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed February 2024



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## Teagues Bridge Primary School Collective Worship Policy

### **Rationale**

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, these acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive and respectful to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community.

### **Collective Worship Defined**

In an educational context, worship reflects the values, aspirations and faith of the people worshipping. It is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none – in this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

Whenever possible we follow the principles that:

- Assemblies should be inclusive
- Assemblies should be educational with curricular links.
- Assemblies should contribute to the religious education of pupils.
- Assemblies should have a sense of occasion.
- Assemblies should use materials that cover a variety of religions and cultures.
- Assemblies should, on occasions, involve people from the local community.

### **Aims and Purpose**

We believe at Teagues Bridge Primary School that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in our worship.

The aims and purpose of collective worship at our school are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to engage in an act of 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

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each persons life stance, whether it whether it be religious or not
- Foster a sense of fellowship bringing pupils together

- Create an atmosphere where children can experience worship
- To encourage in pupils a reflective approach to life

### **Objectives**

We see school worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage pupils to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- Explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- Reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn etc
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. At Teagues Bridge Primary, we provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects broadly Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting all faiths and cultures, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. This is one of our fundamental British Values.

## Organisation and Procedures

Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, such as the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning/PSHE; or RE. Sometimes, some assemblies do respond to events as they happen either within the school community or in the wider local or national community of which we are a part.

### Our current schedule is as follows:

**Monday:** Whole school British Values assembly (focusing on British Values and SMSC).

**Tuesday:** In class PHSE/World News

**Wednesday:** Value of the month assembly, last Wednesday in the month is a class presentation linked to the value of the month.

**Thursday:** In class PHSE/World News

**Friday:** Whole school 'Star of the Week' assembly where we celebrate whole school and individual achievement both in and out of school. This is led by the headteacher and the school council.

We invite parents to class-led assemblies, as well as assemblies for special events (or times of the year). We encourage them to attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school works together to support the achievements of our children.

## Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. Prayer and reflection is an effective way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. However, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. Children may be asked to close their eyes and reflect upon the assembly that has taken place. A prayer or 'thought for the day' may be read (however this is not always necessary as the use of regular moments of silence also provides opportunities for pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish). The act of worship may allow children to respond verbally.

### **Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring**

An assembly file is kept electronically and hard copies in the heads office, recording details of each act of worship, themes covered and staff rota.

### **Visits and Visitors**

As part of the curriculum, Teagues Bridge School welcomes visitors to the school to enable them to share their experiences and knowledge on a variety of themes, beliefs and cultures. The whole school attends and contributes towards annual Harvest, Easter, Eid, Diwali and Christmas assemblies when parents / carers are invited to attend.