

COLMERS FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Summer 2016

To be reviewed summer 2017

Colmers Farm Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

Colmers Farm Primary School will comply with the relevant legislation relating to collective worship in schools. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Context

All maintained schools have a statutory duty to provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly, either a whole school, year group or class assembly. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the Headteacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Purpose of the Policy

Collective worship is a statutory part of school experience. This policy outlines the nature of the format of collective worship in the school.

Ethos

In our school we believe that collective worship is a significant part of the school day when everyone comes together and shares in the celebration of being together as a school and have the opportunity to reflect the wonder and mystery of the known and unknown world in which we live.

Our collective worship is a celebration of all dimensions of human experience which are perceived to be of worth and reflect positive attitudes and respect of one another, irrespective of race, culture, disability and social and economic backgrounds. The collective worship also gives opportunity for us to consider the impact of humans on the natural and physical world.

The Education Reform Act 1988 and the Education Act 1993 set out the legal framework for collective worship. DES Circular 1/94 states:

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive respect and attitudes.

Aims of our Collective Worship

At Colmers Farm Primary School we aim:

- to teach each child to respect and value others
- to promote empathy and understanding
- to reflect on key issues that affect all living things on our planet
- to consider the trials of others working hard to improve the life of others
- to reflect on negative features of human existence and how we can help to make this better
- to generate corporate responsibility towards everyone contributing to an improved world
- to provide opportunity for the delivery of key stories from the Christian faith and the corresponding main teachings.
- to provide opportunity for the delivery of key stories from other faiths and the corresponding main teachings
- to experience aspects of understanding and appreciation of other cultures

Role and Responsibilities

The Headteacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

Practice and Procedures

- An Act of Collective Worship will take place every day. The time at which this takes place and the form of the Collective Worship (whole school, team or class groupings) may vary from day to day.
- The majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- The Act of Collective Worship will be non-denominational.
- Every child will take part in the Act of Collective Worship unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians.
- Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families.

Withdrawal

When parents do not wish their children to participate in collective worship they are asked to arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher to discuss the matter. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship but the school is still responsible for those pupils.

Teachers are required to attend assemblies as part of their conditions of service. However, they are not obliged to attend or participate in acts of worship. Any

teacher wishing to withdraw from collective worship must discuss the matter with the Head Teacher.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Headteacher will keep a record of all Acts of Collective Worship themes. The school will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

POLICY ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY

Signed *Valerie Smith*
Chair of GB

Date: *12/5/16*

TO BE REVIEWED SUMMER 2017