

# Thomas Gray Primary school

## **ASSEMBLY AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

The Collective Worship Policy at Thomas Gray Primary School follows the guidance of the 1988 Education Reform Act and Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. However we also recognize and welcome the increasing diversity of nationalities, cultures and faith groups in our school and the rest of our country. As a school we celebrate diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our pupils including new arrivals and non-native English Speakers.

### **The Aims and Purpose of Collective Worship and Assembly**

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God.
- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
  - To provide opportunities for children to experience different aspects of worship
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs and gain insights into ways in which other people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding.

### **Objectives of Collective Worship**

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder and mystery
- Interdependence with the natural world
- Pattern, sequence and order
- Self-worth and value of others

To develop awareness that:

- Life involves choices of belief/attitude/behaviour/relationships
- There are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life

## **Organization of collective worship**

Assemblies at Thomas Gray Primary are planned to follow themes which promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and a record is kept of who is leading the assembly, what story and prayer they have used and if applicable what song or music. This information is recorded in a notebook and on a calendar specifically kept for this purpose. They include examples from various religious cultures. The themes are often linked to:

- Religious events
  - Special days
  - Special events in the life of the school
  - Topics being undertaken
- The Calendar of Religious Festivals for the year.

## **Assemblies and Collective Worship**

- Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way and are arranged to develop a sense of occasion
- Children are expected to enter and leave quietly
- While the children are in the hall they sit in their teams on the floor
- Music is often played at the start and end of the assembly from a variety of sources
- The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies but once a week local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. We also encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.
  - Parents, governors and members of the local community are invited and encouraged to attend, at regular intervals, learning challenge as well as star of the week, bucket filler and achievement assemblies, and visiting speakers such as the Y kids and one of the local vicars are invited most weeks.

Our assemblies can provide opportunities for many of the following:

To celebrate together (achievements, special occasions etc), to share common values and foster a corporate identity

To reflect together and to enhance spiritual growth

To contribute to personal development

To encourage reflection and enrich emotional responses

To encourage children to have an awareness of God, or others belief in God

To explore own beliefs and experiences

### **Reception children**

Whilst the rest of the school attends whole school assemblies daily, children in Reception begin by just attending special assemblies and the weekly Star of the week assembly on Fridays. On the other days they always end the day with the school prayer and a little time for reflection.

If the school assembly is cancelled for any reason all class teachers follow this routine also.

### Right of withdrawal

Whilst we expect all children to attend assembly any parent or carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give their reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. During induction meetings for Nursery and Reception, and when any new child starts, parents will be asked however if they would like to highlight religious beliefs or any religious concerns. A member of the SMT will always be happy to discuss the content of our assemblies and RE lessons and look at ways to allay fears or help with parents wishes.

Staff, equally, have the right to withdraw from collective worship. They are expected to use the time gainfully for the benefit of the children.

Signed:



Date:

27/11/14

27/11/14

Review Date: Autumn 2017