



# Collective Worship Policy

*Maximum Effort for Maximum Achievement*

## **Aims and purpose**

**1.1** The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- 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** 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 traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

## **3 Organisation of collective worship**

**3.1** We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is either a whole-school assembly or class-led worship.

**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 and participate fully. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

**3.3** The headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, and we have visits from local clergy and other representatives of local religious groups to conduct them as well. We also have a programme of year group assemblies which reflect themes and work the children have been focusing on. These assemblies always include a time for prayer or reflection.

**3.4** We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and also specific PSHE themes. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the R.E. curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

**3.5** Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Buttsbury Junior School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

**3.6** We invite parents to some Acts of Worship, such as Harvest Festival and Year Group assemblies and 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 work together to support the achievements of our children.

**3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

#### **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 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 reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

**4.2** The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

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

**5.1** It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

Policy Date: Autumn 2020

Review Date: Autumn 2023