

# Duston Eldean Primary School



**'TOGETHER WE GROW'**

At Duston Eldean we encourage a creative, caring and respectful environment where the whole school community is happy, enthused and motivated. In developing a love for learning we sow the seeds of success.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Signed: .....

**(Chair of Governors)**

Dated: ..... 2018

Signed: .....

**(Headteacher)**

Dated: ..... 2018

**Frequency of Review: As required**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

This policy is written to comply with the 'Religious Education and Collective Worship' circular 1/94. The quotations are taken from this Department for Education document.

### **Statutory Duty**

#### **BACKGROUND TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT OUR SCHOOL**

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. 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".

Families who send their children to this school mainly categorise themselves as non-religious and those that do have a religious faith are predominately Christian. Other faiths, such as Hindu and Muslim, are also represented. 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. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times.

#### **Definition of collective worship**

Collective worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities. Worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'. Our collective worship will often be related to the day to day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

The extent to which and the ways in which the broad traditions of Christian belief are to be reflected in such acts of collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes. It is for the head teacher to determine this after consultation with the governing body.

#### **Values and Aims:**

We believe at this 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. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

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

- worship God, if appropriate
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and their importance of their role in society

- grow in understanding of the feelings and beliefs of other people
- acknowledge and respect diversity
- celebrate special religious and non-religious occasions together
- develop a community spirit
- share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by individual and groups within the school and celebrate the work of others
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- reinforce positive attitudes
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

### **Implementation:**

Collective Worship 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. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Assemblies will reflect the school's vision, British values and FISH. We use this opportunity to hear from pupil voice groups and members of the community including visitors from the church.

### **The Management of Collective Worship:**

Senior Leaders will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship. The role of the Governing Body is to ensure that there is provision for collective worship.

### **Withdrawal:**

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal. Parents are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.