



**Appleton Wiske CP School Policy**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

January 2016

# 1 Aims and purpose

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- i. to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
  - ii. to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
  - iii. to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
  - iv. to encourage participation and response;
  - v. to develop in children a sense of community spirit; and
  - vi. to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.

## 2 Collective worship

- 2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all the children coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly (subject to Section 4, below).
- 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 the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## 3 Organisation of collective worship

- 3.1 We hold an act of collective worship every day of the week. This usually forms part of our whole-school assembly, which we hold in the hall.
- 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, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to listen respectfully to other peoples views. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and other objects, to focus the attention of the children.
- 3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, the local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the religious calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies in advance of the day they take place.
- 3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Our school is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- 3.6 Each week there is a particular assembly that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- 3.7 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

