



## **Deanshanger Primary School**

### **Collective Worship and Assemblies**

#### **Introduction**

The aim of this policy and our practice is to comply with the relevant legislation relating to Collective Worship in schools.

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

#### **Principles:**

The Collective Worship Policy at Deanshanger Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE. <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/educationandlearning/services/sacre/pages/default.aspx>

#### **Definition of Collective Worship**

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
- offers all pupils an opportunity to engage in relevant, meaningful experiences
- provide opportunities for the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.
- help promote British values in line with The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 for the new social, moral, spiritual and cultural standard - 29 September 2014.

The regulations state that to meet the standard for the SMSC development of pupils, the proprietor of the independent school, academy or free school must:

- Actively promote the fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with difference faiths and beliefs
- Prevent the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the school
- Take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.
- The balanced presentation of opposing views applies while pupils are in attendance at school, while they are taking part in extra-curricular activities provided by, or on behalf of, the school, and in the promotion of those extra-curricular activities, whether they are taking place at the school or elsewhere.

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Deanshanger Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- recognise and reflect upon our existence in a multi-faith society
- strengthen our community spirit

## **For the Students:**

We also intend that assemblies contribute to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes and school values
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

## **Core Roles and Responsibilities**

Staff and the Head teacher

- 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, key stage or class groupings) will vary from day to day.
- The Head teacher will keep a record of all assembly themes and publish this on the school calendar.
- The assembly will provide an opportunity for self-reflection, thanks or praise.

Students

- Will take part in the programme of Collective Worship unless their parents have withdrawn them from it.

Parents/Carers

- Parents of a student have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head teacher.

## Governors

- Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families and take into account the family background, ages and abilities of all pupils.

## Planning Assemblies

We hold a daily act of collective worship and is organised as follows.

<b>Monday</b>	Class collective worship
<b>Tuesday</b>	Whole school assembly led by Head teacher - following theme outlined in the school calendar. Occasional visitor to take an assembly.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Whole school singing assembly led by Head Teacher
<b>Thursday</b>	Continuation from Tuesday's theme and any topical events
<b>Friday</b>	Whole school Celebration assembly with each class on a rota. Led by the Head teacher. Certificates of achievement and Maths Masters challenges take place.

Rachel Foster from the Bridgebuilder Trust leads our whole school assemblies once a term with a interactive Christian theme. A team from the local church lead regular assemblies with 'Open the Book' and a member of the Jewish community also visits at significant times in the year.

A new rota of assemblies is devised each year by the Head teacher to ensure a broad range of areas to be studied. During the year, the assembly themes are linked to the school values, British values and topical world and local events. These include new beginnings, cultural awareness, friendship, aspirations for the future, British historical events, team spirit, going the extra mile, love and kindness, keeping safe, significant female/male figures in history, doing our best and international awareness. Staff are expected to follow up the themes during Key stage and class/year group assemblies.

Friday assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Each class has the opportunity, once a year, to lead this assembly. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

## Special Events

The school celebrates many important events in the Christian calendar. Each year the school celebrates Harvest, Christmas and Easter as well as many topical events such as Mothers and Fathers days, Random Acts of Kindness, Sport/Comic Relief, Jeans for Genes, Remembrance Day, World Earth Day, St George's Day, Olympics, Backpacks for Africa and World Book Day.

Opportunities are sought to acknowledge special events from other cultures in assemblies such as Rosh Hashanah, Eid al Adha, Diwali, Eid al Fitr and Hannukah. We encourage visitors from different faiths to take assembly to enable children to have a range of experiences.

### **Leadership and Management Role of the Subject Leader**

The RE co-ordinator is responsible for the dissemination of information; “in-house discussion” and attending relevant training courses. The subject leader organises and updates the resources according to the topics covered across the school in assemblies.

### **Role of the Governing Body**

The role of the Governing body is to review and maintain the Collective Worship policy. Governors are always welcome to attend assemblies.