



# Edith Cavell Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

(On behalf of ....)

Signed: A Heavey Chair of Governors

Signed: H Cooke Headteacher

Date: November 2019

Review date: September 2022

# Edith Cavell Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

### **Introduction:**

At Edith Cavell Primary School we believe that Collective Worship plays an important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a busy, active day for our pupils.

### **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 in order to reflect on humanity and issues that affect our local and wider communities. 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.

### **Aims:**

The central aims of Collective Worship at Edith Cavell Primary School are to:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Provide an inclusive environment where all can come together.
- Enable pupils to encounter the traditions and beliefs mainly of Christian but also of other religions.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God.
- Provide members of the school community with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- Establish a sense of belonging to the school community and its values and visions, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our pupils.
- Have a sense of occasion.
- Help pupils develop an understanding of the nature and language of worship.
- Help pupils develop respect and sensitivity for the beliefs and values of others.
- Support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual/oral means.

**An effective act of worship will include opportunities for:**

- Exploration of a theme or focus
- Reflection
- Celebration
- Pupil participation

**The Legal Position:**

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. This must reflect the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

At Edith Cavell Primary School we have developed a two year cycle of a range of topics, themes and values through which collective worship takes place.(Appendix 1) Key values include hope, love, trust, empathy, kindness, compassion etc. We believe these values are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We recognise that in our school many of the pupils have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all pupils feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at Edith Cavell Primary School is an inclusive activity.

All Parents/Guardians have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of collective worship, without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship. At present we do not have any pupils whose parents have exercised their right to withdraw them worship.

**Context of Collective Worship:**

Collective Worship at Edith Cavell Primary School takes place in various settings, in order to provide different learning experiences for pupils. Acts of worship take place in the broader framework of school assemblies and are planned thematically. The usual pattern for assemblies is outlined below:

Monday - Whole Class

Tuesday - In Class or Key Stage

Wednesday - Whole School - Singing

Thursday - Whole School - Open the Book

Friday - Whole School - Celebration

On the days classes do not meet together in an assembly, each class plans a short reflective moment/act of collective worship that can be timetabled anywhere across the day.

This enables our pupils to learn in different settings and group sizes and to make an active contribution to our Acts of Worship.

Volunteers from 'Open the book' deliver a programme of themed and dramatised Bible stories into Collective Worship times on Thursdays. The teams of volunteer storytellers use drama, mime, props, costume to present Bible stories in ways that are lively, engaging, and informative for everyone involved.

Friday assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by talking about what they have learned during the previous week. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Children receive certificates for good work and examples of positive behaviour.

We aim to create a calm atmosphere prior to the start of collective worship. The children will therefore be expected to leave their classrooms and enter the hall in silence. Music / sounds will be played for entering and leaving the hall.

There are opportunities throughout the term to focus on 'one-off' issues e.g. stranger danger, school and national events. These will be planned as far as possible, into the long-term planning cycle, but there is a need for flexibility for us to respond to the unexpected.

### **Special Educational Needs and Inclusion**

The Headteacher, teachers and visitors are involved in leading worship assemblies. We welcome other visitors into the school to help broaden the children's experiences. Every effort is made to involve the children, where appropriate. All staff are made aware of all children in the school with Special Educational Needs and take this into account when planning assemblies.

The school invites visitors to play an active role in our Acts of Worship and we are developing a resource bank which includes stories, poems, music and other support materials to enable our pupils to learn more effectively.

### **Review and evaluation:**

Periodically the Act of Worship is reviewed and evaluated by the Head teacher, R.E coordinator and SMT after consultation with all staff. Adjustments are made as necessary; this tends to be on an informal basis as the need arises.

### **Conclusion**

We feel that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school as we:

- Seek to develop our pupils in the skills of reflection and empathy.
- Encourage all pupils to celebrate their gifts and talents.
- Promote spiritual and moral development in all pupils.

## Appendix 1

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year A	Respect	Love	Responsibility	Hope	Trust	Tolerance
Year B	Happiness	Peace	Honesty	Patience	Care	Courage