



Willoughton Primary School

## The Cliff Federation Collective Worship Policy

| <u>Policy Information</u>  |                                      |                        |                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Status:</b>             | An act of daily worship is statutory | <b>Reviewed by:</b>    | Full Governing Board |
| <b>Cycle of Review:</b>    | Annual                               | <b>Policy Ratified</b> | January 2023         |
| <b>Signed as accepted:</b> |                                      |                        |                      |

### Aims

It is our aim at The Cliff Federation that Collective Worship should:

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child;
- support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the PHSE Curriculum and Values-based education;
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community;
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings;
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals;
- 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 the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet;
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism;
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience prayer. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection (e.g. The Lord's Prayer, The school prayer)

### Why do we include Collective Worship at our school?

According to section 9 of the 1988 Education Reform Act: "All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship". The law requires that most acts of worship in school be of a "broadly Christian character".

### What is collective worship?

- Allows a pause for reflection and stillness in the midst of the pressure of the school day;

Governing Body: Full Governors

Review Date:

- Provides a rhythm to the life of the school by marking and celebrating special occasions and achievements;
- Facilitates the development of a sense of community - of belonging and sharing;
- Encourages children to learn how to be part of large and small gatherings, as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation of readings, dance, drama or prayer.

### **What must be included in Collective Worship?**

Each assembly must contain an opportunity for pupils to worship. There should be a time to reflect, respond and revere.

**Reflection** – music, poem or stillness may be used to focus attention. The aim is to identify a time that is respected by all present and enables the children to reflect on a particular issue.

**Response** – children should be given the opportunity to respond, either through silent thoughts, singing together or more overtly by listening to a prayer. Other types of response may include repeating or reciting a response, meditation, movement or dance.

**Revere** – We should be aiming to cultivate a sense of awe and wonder.

### **Pattern and Organisation**

The majority of acts of worship are broadly Christian, although pupils are introduced to aspects of other world religions.

### **Right of withdrawal**

It is a legal requirement that all children attend Collective Worship unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw their children from all or parts of worship under the 1988 Education Reform Act. In the event of this occurring, children are suitably occupied under the supervision of an adult.

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

Any member of staff, who expresses their desire to withdraw from the religious aspect of an assembly due to a conflict of belief, will not be required to attend or lead Collective Worship; but they will not be given the right to withdraw from the non-worship part of assembly.

### **What could be included in Collective Worship?**

Assemblies provide opportunities for a variety of presentations, which help to maintain pupils' interest. The following are suggestions of things to include helping vary the format of assemblies:

- Values-based Education;
- Dance drama and role play;
- Music and singing;
- Posters;
- Videos;
- Readings (biography, story, poetry);
- Story-telling;
- Discussion;
- Artefacts;

- Remembering or valuing exercises;
- Pupils' work;
- Newspaper articles;
- Use of ICT presentations;
- Celebrating children's achievements.
- Community Cohesion

Opportunities for the use of the local, national and global communities are used as a resource for lessons and visitors will be welcomed into school to enhance learning experiences.

Opportunities are available to all; strong and positive relationships within the school and wider community are encouraged and developed further.

At The Cliff Federation, we have visitors who take our assemblies or are part of our assemblies on a regular basis. We have visits from members of the Methodist Church, the Priest in Charge of the Trentcliff Group of parishes, PCSOs and the Road Safety Partnership to name a few.