



# Benton Dene Primary

## Collective Worship

### Policy



# **Benton Dene Primary School**

## **Collective Act of Worship/ Assemblies Policy**

Collective Worship makes a valuable contribution to the life of Benton Dene Primary School. It provides an opportunity for members of the school community to pause from activity; to gather and to reflect upon the beliefs and values which bind the school community together.

“Collective worship can be related to the day to day life aspiration and concerns of the school.”

(R.E. and Collective Worship DfES Circular 1/94).

It is with this statement in mind that the assemblies in Benton Dene Primary School are organised. Many focus on an aspect of school life, or the development of the pupils in the school. It can be a forum where not only beliefs can be explored, but also other qualities, cultural heritage, achievement, celebrating success and local, national and world issues.

In particular Collective Worship in our school

- Provides an opportunity for the school to reflect on important issues.
- Reinforces a sense of group and community identity.
- Gives pupils the experience of being still and quiet.
- Provides an opportunity for celebrating success and times of joy.
- Provides an opportunity for coming together in times of sadness and sorrow.
- Provides an opportunity for highlighting and reflecting upon human and school values such as truth, justice, respect.
- Offers the opportunity to mark significant points in the year such as festivals and national, local and school events.

Assemblies and collective worship contribute to the spiritual moral, social and cultural development of pupils by providing opportunities such as:

### **Spiritual**

- Reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of life and our experiences.
- Experience times of quiet in the midst of the school day.
- Experience material from religious and other sources which suggest that there is more to life than the immediate and material.

### **Moral**

- Reflect on issues of right and wrong.
- Hear about people and incidents in which goodness and “rightness” are exemplified.
- Learn about religious and other teachings concerned with right and wrong.

## **Social**

- Gather with others for a common purpose.
- Share times of joy and sadness with others in the community.
- Learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting.

## **Cultural**

- Hear music from a range of cultures, times and places.
- Reflect upon ideas concerning beauty and what is pleasing to the eye and ear.
- Appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and wider society.

## **Intellectual**

- Think and expand their knowledge base and understanding.
- Have ideas, beliefs, preconceptions and prejudices confirmed or challenged.
- Reflect upon the nature of learning and the value of education.

## **Our School and the Law on Collective Worship**

At Benton Dene Primary School we acknowledge the Education Reform Act of 1988 sets out the law regarding collective worship and we ensure that the “broadly Christian character” requirement is achieved in the majority of our Acts of Collective Worship over the course of a school term. We do this in a number of ways, for example, by

- Making reference to God or Jesus when appropriate (being sensitive to the school community).
- Encouraging a positive and responsible attitude to the environment.
- Encouraging a quest for personal honesty and integrity, truth and justice and other values.
- Encouraging pupils to look beyond the immediate and material to life’s mysteries and consideration of them.
- Encouraging love and respect for self and other people.
- Encouraging service to others and the community.
- Celebrating major Christian festivals as they occur and festivals and tradition of other religions.

(b) “The requirement that acts of collective worship are appropriate for ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils at the school.” We do this in a number of ways, for example, by

- Recognising the diverse nature of commitment of people in the school.
- Recognising that there are many forms of religious commitment.
- Choosing songs, prayers and readings carefully to ensure they are appropriate to the context of the school.
- Regarding variety in religion, belief and culture as something to be acknowledged explored and celebrated.

- Building festivals from a variety of religious and cultural traditions into the yearly programme.

Collective worship and the curriculum are interrelated in a number of ways. It can draw from the curriculum by providing an opportunity to reflect and highlight classroom work, achievements and successes. The assembly/collective worship can also be used as a stimulus by providing ideas and suggestions that can be followed up in classroom work. We closely link assemblies and Acts of Collective Worship with S.E.A.L. (more information from P.H.S.C.E. co-ordinator)

Parents have the right to withdraw their children, wholly or partly, as have members of staff. If this is the case the headteacher should be contacted to discuss the request for withdrawal from the Collective Worship and what pupils will do when others assemble.

The school philosophy and ethos underpin much of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and they do not only take place in assembly or in the Collective Act of Worship.

## **The organisation of Collective Acts of Worship in our school**

Collective Worship takes place either in a gathering of the whole school, Key Stages or class group. Acts of Collective Worship usually last about 15 minutes, though this may be reduced or extended as appropriate.

A file of suggested assemblies following a theme is produced each term. These records may be used to show to and discuss with OFSTED inspectors.

Assemblies and the Collective act of Worship reinforce our core values and objectives.

This policy and schools philosophy and approach to collective worship/assemblies is available and can be discussed with the headteacher.

This policy was ratified on ...8/1/10 and was reviewed October 2016