

# Hunmanby Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. 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 and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school as outlined in NYCC Agreed Syllabus revised in 2004 and is reflective of the multicultural society in which we live. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, our assemblies may reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school, the wider community and our 21<sup>st</sup> century society.

### Aims

- to provide an opportunity for the children to experience worship;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

### Objectives

**By the end of KS1**, through Collective Worship, children will have had opportunities to:

- Listen and begin to think about their own response
- Participate and contribute their thoughts and ideas
- Celebrate alongside others
- Begin to appreciate the value of being thoughtful and still
- Enjoy a feeling of togetherness
- Experience the feelings of awe and wonder
- Explore different emotions
- Become aware of their own contribution and uniqueness

**By the End of KS2**, through Collective Worship, children will have had opportunities to:

- Listen and to formulate their own responses and be sensitive to those of others
- Participate more fully and to plan their own act of collective worship
- Thoughtfully and relevantly contribute their ideas with confidence
- Develop an understanding of the meaning of celebration
- Reflect and begin to evaluate in periods of quiet contemplation
- Appreciate the value of belonging to and being part of a worshipping community
- Explore and express a wide range of emotions and feelings and relate them to their life
- Show empathy and encouragement to others
- Begin to develop an awareness of the spiritual nature of the individual

### Visitors

Visitors from the local and wider community are welcomed to bring a broader perspective to the acts of worship. A visitor assembly takes place on a weekly basis led by members of the village community or local faith leaders.

### **Themes for Collective Worship**

Themes are planned for the term and will follow either a weekly or overall focus for each half term and/or the annual calendar of religious festivals and events.

Themes may be subject to change depending on pertinent local or worldwide events.

The forthcoming term plans are distributed to all regular visitors who generally follow the main themes for the term and/or week in their presentation for their assembly.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

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 and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite parents to assembly on a regular basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Mon	2.45pm	Whole School - Headteacher/Visitors
Tues	2.45pm	Whole school singing assembly - hymn themed
Wed	2.45pm.	Whole School - The Big Buzz Assembly
Thurs	2.45pm.	Whole School Achievement Assembly (Teachers)
Fri	2.45pm.	Whole School - Celebration or Class Assembly.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act.

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

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.