

# NENE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Collective Worship Policy

### 1 Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to 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 encourage a feeling of awe and wonder in spiritual matters;
- to teach children how to worship.

### Collective worship

We understand collective worship to be a special act or occasion to meet the aims and purpose set out above. Collective worship usually involves all pupils coming together and participating in an assembly led by a staff member. We invite everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

Our assemblies meet the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act, and most assemblies reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### Organization of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This usually forms part of each daily assembly, which may be whole-school, key stage or class. Key Stage assemblies take place on two days each week, where an act of collective worship is included.

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 invite them to participate fully in times of reflection and hymns. When a prayer is offered children are given the opportunity to take part or to sit and listen quietly and respectfully in line with their beliefs. 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.

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy, other representatives of local religious groups or significant community members lead them instead.

We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes. We take some of the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.

We invite visitors to Friday 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, school and community work together to support the achievements of our children.

Our Friday assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in Friday assemblies by showing their work to the other children and visitors. 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. Nene Valley Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

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

### **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 although they are invited to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in 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 member of the Governing Body, in partnership with the member of staff responsible for Collective Worship, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship on an annual basis. The governor liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

Agreed by the Governing Body of Nene Valley Primary School:

Signed:	Signed
	
Mrs Gail Warnes Chair of Governors	Mr Stuart Mansell Headteacher
Date:	Date: 21.10.2010
REVIEW DATE: March 2012	