

Ormesby Village Infant and Junior Schools

Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God together; to consider the nature of God and aspects of Christian worship and of other faiths and cultures;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response; to value themselves and each other
- to give thanks
- 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.

2 Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

2.2 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 of Christ 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.

2.3 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.

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly.

3.2 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 periods of reflection, prayer and songs. 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.

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

- 3.4** We take 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 plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place. Assemblies each half term also lead into our half-termly P.S.H.E. learning themes.
- 3.5** On Fridays 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. Teachers award certificates to children who have achieved something special or shown kindness, behaved sensibly etc. They may also show out-of-school trophies and certificates. Attendance is rewarded and house points are tallied. Children who have demonstrated an understanding of the week's P.S.H.E. theme are also nominated. 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 schools, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. The Ormesby Village Schools are successful schools and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- 3.6** We invite parents to a Birthday Assembly on a weekly basis at the infant school and we encourage them to attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way home and school work together to support our children. Birthday children talk about their special day and show presents and cards before blowing out candles on the cake. The children enjoy feeling special, other children learn to listen and we all say thank you to those who make our birthdays days to remember.
- 3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

- 4.1** 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. This would need to be discussed with the Headteacher. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- 4.2** The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1** It is the role of the governing body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship and they may request a report at any time.

Date reviewed by staff	September 2024
Review	September 2026