

EPPING UPLAND C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Objectives

- The School will promote a sense of community within the school celebrating the diversity of beliefs and contributing towards a sense of cohesion, stability and shared values.
- To help children celebrate and honour God by use of religious material from Christianity and other religions that encourages them to be loving, reflective, enquiring and have a proper sense of humility.
- To help children express their emotions, develop empathy, strengthen their own self-image and reflect on their beliefs, values and lifestyles.
- To know and understand the importance of religious stories and ideas found in Christianity and other religions.
- To celebrate awareness of, reflect upon and pray for the needs of the wider world community.
- To help our children understand the Faith and customs both of fellow pupils in the School and the wider multi-faith community.
- To have an enjoyable, profound and stimulating experience that will inspire them in their daily lives.
- To understand the importance of Christian values, and most especially the school's own Core Christian Values of Perseverance, Trust, Compassion and Responsibility and how they guide us to live and lead our lives

Scope

All legal rights will be respected. Teachers will be made aware of their rights to withdraw during the Act of Worship. Those wishing to withdraw should in the first instance speak to the Headteacher and this followed up with a formal letter.

Parents may ask for their children to be withdrawn from collective worship and should do so by making an appointment to discuss the arrangements with the Headteacher. It is hoped that this will be an occasional matter as the school wishes to create an occasion in which all children can participate. A withdrawn child can join in the assembly part of the gathering and will be treated sensitively and parents fully informed.

There will be times and opportunities for collective worship throughout the school and throughout the week. Visitors from churches, other faiths, charities and organisations are invited to take assemblies. Each week there will be a variety of formats for collective worship.

An example of a weekly assembly schedule would be:

Monday: Whole School Assembly:

A celebration of success.

Opportunity to celebrate and recognise other achievements and successes

Tuesday: Whole School Assembly: following a theme, including bible stories and stories from other faiths.

Sometimes these assemblies will be led by Year 6 pupils.

Wednesday: KS1 Reflective assembly

Reflection times in each of the KS2 classes

Thursday: Staff led Assembly

Friday: Whole School Assembly (including the youngest members of the school), including singing practice.

Whole School Church Services: led by the school at the Church (Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers)

In addition to assemblies, there is a Reflection tree in the library area, available for all children to leave notes of their thoughts, prayers and reflections should they wish. The entrance hall also has a display of the UN Rights of the Child.

All our acts of worship aim to develop:

- Spiritual and moral values
- Spiritual awareness
- Knowledge of Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship

We aim to provide a time which:

- Allows for a pause and stillness in the midst of a busy school day
- Provides a rhythm in the life of the school by marking and celebrating special occasions and achievements
- Fosters a sense of the value of community, belonging and sharing together
- Encourages children to learn how to be part of a large gathering as well as offering opportunities to perform and take part in responding to presentations

Presentation:

- Stories
- Poems
- Artefacts
- Pictures
- Discussion
- Music
- Drama
- Sharing children's work

Worship will include quiet reflection, prayers, poems, hymn and songs.

RESPONSIBILITY AND MONITORING

The Governing Body remains responsible for the provision in consultation with the Headteacher.

Updated September 2017

