

# Heatherside Junior School

## Policy for Assemblies (Collective Worship)

**Date of Policy:** November 2023

**Next review date:** November 2024

This policy has been devised in line with Hampshire County Council guidelines for Collective Worship and the associated statutory duties of schools.

Collective worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum that we provide for our children and reinforces the aims and spiritual, moral, social and cultural values of the school.

We interpret 'worship' as:

*'a form of human activity, when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us'*

Our aim is to develop children's

- Spiritual awareness
- Social and moral values
- Sense of awe and wonder
- Knowledge of the beliefs, values, celebrations and traditions of Christianity and other world religions.

Collective worship provides a time for children to **reflect** and **respond**. It helps to foster a sense of community, celebrating the life of the school and helping children to consider their place in the world.

Each week, themes for Collective Worship will be explored and shared through stories, poems, music, art, drama, discussion and prayer or reflection. Where appropriate, assemblies will reflect special occasions, important issues and/or current events. Children will be encouraged to share their ideas and to reflect upon the feelings of themselves and of others. We focus on our School Values and how our assemblies also link to British Values.

Visitors are invited to lead assemblies, including ministers from the local churches and members of other religious faiths. Other representatives from the local community may also lead assemblies, including school governors, parents and charitable organisations.

Our Collective Worship takes place in the mornings, in the hall or classroom. Music may be used to create a quiet and thoughtful atmosphere, where a sense of community and belonging can be fostered.

Monday	Year 3 & 5 Year 4 and 6	Assembly Class Assembly
Tuesday	Whole School	Singing Assembly
Wednesday	Whole School	Assembly
Thursday	Year 4 & 6 Year 3 and 5	Assembly Class Assembly
Friday	Whole School	Whole School Celebration

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from participating in acts of collective worship. Requests for this must be made in writing to the headteacher, who will then meet with the parents to discuss this. Teachers and support staff are entitled to withdraw from collective worship. This request must also be made in writing to the headteacher.