

# **Sutton Green Primary School Collective Worship/Assembly Policy**

## ***Together Helping Every Child***

Reviewed by Governors November 2015 (Next review November 18)

### **Introduction:**

At Sutton Green Primary school we believe that Collective Worship and assemblies plays an important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a busy, active day for our pupils.

### **Aims:**

The central aims of Collective Worship and coming together in assemblies at Sutton Green Primary school are to:

- Provide an inclusive environment where all can come together.
- Establish a sense of belonging to the school community and its values and visions, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our pupils.
- Have a sense of occasion.
- Promote spiritual, social, moral and cultural development
- Enable pupils to encounter the traditions and beliefs mainly of Christian but also of other religions.
- Provide opportunities to worship God.
- Provide pupils with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection.
- Help pupils develop an understanding of the nature and language of worship, including how this may be reflected in other faiths
- Help pupils develop respect and sensitivity for the beliefs and values of others.
- Support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual/oral means linked to our key themes of relationships, living in a wide and diverse world and health and wellbeing. Particular links will be made to the PSHCE and RE curriculum.

- Providing opportunities for parents to take part in some key assemblies across the year e.g. Harvest, Leavers
- Use a range of external visitors and resources to deepen pupils' understanding of key themes within our collective worship/assembly programme

**An effective act of worship will include opportunities for:**

- Exploration of a theme or focus
- Reflection
- Celebration
- Pupil participation

**The Legal Position:**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that all maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. This must reflect the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian.

At Sutton Green Primary school we have developed a range of topics, themes and values through which collective worship takes place. Key values include hope, love, trust, empathy, kindness, compassion etc. We believe these values are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We recognise that in our school many of the pupils have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all pupils feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at Sutton Green Primary School is an inclusive activity.

All Parents/Guardians have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of collective worship, without giving a reason for doing so. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

At present we do not have any pupils whose parents have exercised their right to withdraw them from worship.

**Context of Collective Worship:**

Collective Worship at Sutton Green Primary school takes place in various settings, in order to provide different learning experiences for

pupils. Acts of worship take place in the broader framework of school assemblies and are planned thematically linked to three themes of **Relationships, Living in a Diverse World** and **Health and Wellbeing**. Our collective worship/assembly programme also takes account of local and national events. Key members of staff, including the HT have responsibility for coordinating and leading collective worship/assemblies.

The usual pattern for assemblies is outlined below:

Monday	KS1 (10.10) led primarily by HT
Tuesday	in Class led by class teachers
Wednesday	Whole school (9.10) led primarily by HT
Thursday	KS2 (9.10) led primarily by HT
Friday	Whole School Celebration Focus led by Assistant HT Mrs Allmand and KS2 lead Mrs Flaherty

On the days classes do not meet together in an assembly, each class plans a short reflective moment/act of collective worship that can be timetabled anywhere across the day. Class teachers should discuss with staff working with their class on the day who will lead this.

This enables our pupils to learn in different settings and group sizes and to make an active contribution to our Acts of Worship. The school invites visitors to play an active role in our Acts of Worship.

A board in the hall displays the theme for the week and music linked to that theme. Staff are encouraged to reinforce/link key themes discussed throughout the week with curriculum work and class discussion opportunities. They will also be linked to PSHCE work.

Staff delivering collective worship/assemblies utilise a wide range of paper/electronic resources a which includes stories, poems, music and other support materials to enable our pupils to learn more effectively.

Assembly/Collective worship also provides an opportunity for pupil involvement/discussion and reflection. Planning of assembly/collective worship provides opportunities to do this.

The Assembly file held in the HT office records of our Acts of Worship. This includes theme, music, prayer/reflection, space for notes/comments. It also includes a calendar of key events in school and to the wider world to link with the delivery of Collective Worship.

**Review and evaluation:**

Periodically the Act of Worship is reviewed and evaluated by the Head teacher, R.E coordinator and SMT after consultation with all staff. Governors are also invited to attend key events and Collective worship is linked to policy review and evaluation within the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Adjustments to the assembly/collective worship programme are made as necessary ; this tends to be on an informal basis as the need arises and includes an annual update at the start of the academic year.