

Bow Community Primary School Collective Worship Policy

1 Aims and purpose

1.1 Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Bow CP School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

For the pupils, we intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship God, if appropriate;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- explore their own beliefs;
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- encourage participation and response;
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and worries of the world

2 Collective worship

2.1 Collective worship is a special time for pupils to reflect upon life experiences and ultimate questions and, if appropriate, focus on God. It should allow the pupils' time to be able to make a spiritual response...

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 weekly Christian worship, on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct all our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

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

3 Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a weekly act of collective worship. This forms part of our Monday morning assembly, (which is normally a whole-school assembly), or can be a class assembly.

- 3.2 The assemblies are conducted by the headteacher and other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of religious groups, on a Wednesday morning on a diarised basis.
- 3.3 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics or other religions that we teach as part of the school curriculum.
- 3.4 Schools often gather for achievement assemblies, singing assemblies and curriculum assemblies. These can be made into an act of collective worship through the addition of an opportunity for reflection or prayer at the end of these times. Without it they stay as an assembly.
- 3.4 Periodically there is a particular assembly that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- 3.5 Governors' attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

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 religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal 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 have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role the Governing Body, through the Teaching and Learning Committee. The Teaching and Learning committee liaises with the headteacher and reports to the governing body.
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Amendments: Changes made to reflect content of school life – the days that collective worship takes place.

Policy reviewed: February 2021
Next review – Spring 2023