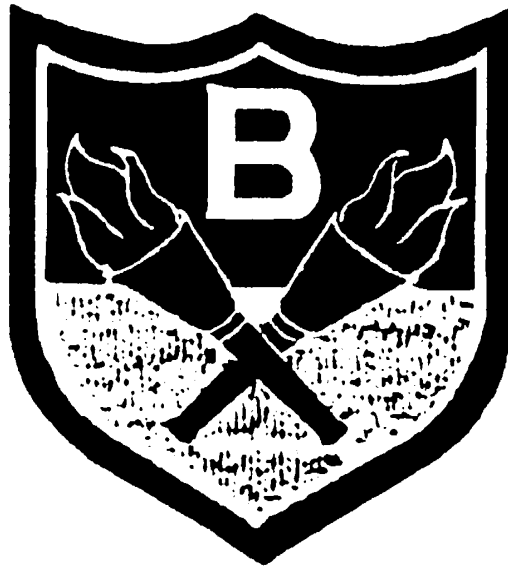


# ***BEACONSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL***



***“Shining a Light On Learning”***

## **Collective Worship Policy**

Reviewed: October 2014

Next Review: October 2016

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY (2014)

### **Background:**

The 1996 Education Act requires that all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall take part in a daily act of collective worship. Arrangements may be for a single act of worship for all pupils (e.g. a school assembly) or they may be for separate groups of pupils in different age groups (e.g. class acts)

The 1996 Education Act prescribes that collective worship in county schools be broadly Christian in nature. Collective worship is of a broadly Christian character if it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

The 2014 National Curriculum (NC) for England re-states this requirement. It says; "All state schools make provision for a daily act of collective worship to pupils at every key stage." The NC also states that; "Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

As a multi-ethnic, multi-faith, state-funded primary school Beaconsfield Primary will ensure that all pupils of statutory school age are provided with opportunities to participate in acts of collective worship to comply with the requirements of the National Curriculum. These opportunities are provided through whole school assemblies, key stage assemblies and in classrooms.

### **School Aims for Collective Worship / Rationale**

Collective worship will give pupils the opportunity to:

- consider spiritual and moral issues
- reflect on what it means to be a human being
- promote a common ethos and shared values (including British traditions and values)
- develop community and collegiate spirit
- reinforce positive attitudes, beliefs and values

Collective worship at Beaconsfield Primary will recognise and value the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population whilst meeting the requirements of the Education Act and National Curriculum.

## How collective worship will enrich the experiences of pupils

- enable pupils to reflect on and question issues such as belonging to the school community, the wider community and to humanity as a whole;
- reinforce a sense of community and cohesion through appreciating those things we have in common;
- develop a reflective approach to life;
- support pupils in the development of spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives;
- develop a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, material and the here and now;
- provide time to consider values and beliefs - both their own and those of others;
- raise awareness of difficulties experienced living a life based on values, beliefs and principles which may not be shared by everyone in the wider community;
- provide opportunity to celebrate achievement and to share times of celebration;
- support students in responding to crisis at a personal and collective level and provide them with a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses;
- support those who have particular needs or who are engaged in times of crisis.

Collective worship reinforces the school community, by giving pupils the opportunity to share things of worth with each other, within a reflective space.

Those pupils who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider issues in the light of their personal religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate whilst those pupils who don't have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal, internal response to the same stimulus. They will also be able to enter into dialogue with those of faith, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each other's stances.

The language of invitation to reflect will be open and inclusive, ensuring that no pupil or adult present feels their beliefs have been compromised and ensuring that they are able to participate and grow spiritually.

### Content

- marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community;
- examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings;
- stories supporting themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular books;
- response to key local, national and international events;
- providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs whether religious or otherwise;
- consideration of questions you wouldn't think about elsewhere - not necessarily with easy / definitive answers;
- putting things into practice - e.g., supporting charities;
- providing a moment for silent reflection / prayer;
- celebration of successes of members of the school community;
- performances or presentations from members of the school community;

Collective Worship takes place within classrooms and part of assemblies. In an assembly, the person leading the assembly will invite children to participate in an act of collective worship and reflection. When assemblies do not take place children will be given the opportunity for personal reflection during the class time within the school day.

The school has in the past successfully applied for an exemption from wholly Christian worship. This is renewed every five years through Ealing SACRE. This is so that 'Acts of Collective Worship' are inclusive for children and staff from a range of beliefs and faiths, including those who are non believers. As such withdrawal would be strongly discouraged. This determination will be renewed during 2014/2015.

### **Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

It is acknowledged that parents/ carers do have the right to request that pupils are withdrawn from acts of collective worship. Such requests may be for 'wholly' or 'partly' withdrawal and parents/ carers are not required to give reasons for their request.

Requests for withdrawal will ordinarily be exercised through the physical removal of the pupil from the place where the act of collective worship is taking place. To avoid any potential misunderstanding from arising the school will request that any parent/ carer choosing to exercise this request does so in writing. The request should clearly state:

- (i) the elements of worship in which the parent/ carer would object to the child taking part
- (ii) whether the request for withdrawal is permanent or will it be reviewed annually
- (iii) acknowledgement of the practical implications of withdrawal