Thornton Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Principles and aims of inspiring Collective Worship

To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

Collective Worship is spiritual –

- Refreshing the spirit with a time to gather, be still and reflect.
- Creating an atmosphere conductive to worship while accepting that some pupils will no personal response.
- Creating an opportunity to be uplifted out of the everyday/ ordinary and to be aware of what is within and beyond ourselves.
- Offering opportunities for pupils to consider the spiritual dimension and explore their own beliefs and those of others.

Collective Worship is educational –

- A learning experience of real quality properly planned, prepared, executed and evaluated.
- Broadening and deepening knowledge and understanding.
- Offering a variety of experiences.
- Challenging but seeking to convert or indoctrinate, neither of which are appropriate in a school setting.

Collective Worship is inclusive –

- Relating to pupils' experiences, concerns and needs.
- Affirming diversity and respecting integrity of pupils and teachers whatever their faith or non-faith background.
- Fostering a sense of community where people of different faiths and of no faith come together as a school and a family at the same time.
- Offering opportunities to engage at some level.
- Providing an opportunity to worship whilst remaining suitable for the whole school community to listen.

Collective Worship at Thornton Primary School

Collective Worship will be broadly Christian in nature and this will be reflected through the themes addressed. It will actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, Children will have the opportunity to experience Collective Worship through a variety of ways, such as listening to music, prayer, reflection or discussion.

Organisation, Planning and Recording of Collective Worship

Collective Worship may

- Take place at any time of the day
- Be arranged for the whole school or sub-sections of it or as a class
- Be led by any adult (including outside visitors) or learners; subject to the oversight of the head teacher or delegated member of staff, in line with the principles of this policy

Effective Collective Worship is

- Planned and recorded
- Flexible and sensible, responding to and reflecting on contemporary events.

Regardless of the leadership of Collective Worship, the school remains responsible for the health and safety of all pupils.

Legal Requirements

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in a daily act of Collective Worship which must be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes, beliefs and family backgrounds of the pupils". Collective Worship at Thornton Primary School is inclusive of pupils' from all faiths and none.

Collective Worship means that all pupils regardless of faith come together to celebrate and reflect on all aspects of life that may affect them. This is inclusive of all faiths; it cannot be worship of any particular faith. We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. A school community is not a worshipping community and by law recognises this by requiring 'collective not corporate worship'. The faith background of both staff and the child's family is respected at all times. Collective Worship gives the children the opportunity to respond and reflect from their own faith tradition. This is different from acts of worship that takes place in a religious building.

The head teacher is responsible for arranging the daily Collective Worship after consulting with the Governing Body.

Parents of a pupil at our school have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending Collective Worship, the school will ensure the health and safety of the pupil. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the heads teacher. Teachers may also withdraw from Collective Worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure Collective Worship is inspiring and adhered to we will monitor through pupil voice and observations.

Date of policy – February 2016

Written by – Michelle Holding

Date of review February 2017