

Red Oaks Primary School

Collective Worship policy

Date: November 2020

(Next Review Date due: Nov 2021)

Red Oaks Primary School is a non-denominational, nonselective mixed Primary School. As such it is subject to the requirements of the Education reform Act of 1988 with regard to the provision of Collective Worship.

This act states that:

- All pupils attending a maintained school should take part in daily Collective Worship
- It is the Head teacher's duty to secure this. The governing body must also exercise their functions with a view to securing this.
- The timing and organisation of daily collective Worship can be flexible.
- Collective Worship in any one term in a non-religious foundation school should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'

Aims:

Collective worship is a golden opportunity to support the development of a pupil's Spiritual, Social, Moral, and Cultural education. It aims to:

- Give time to breathe, offer space and stillness and reflection
- Challenge thinking and extend pupil's emotional repertoire
- Explore shared values
- Develop community spirit and promote a common ethos
- Consider alternative views of life and lifestyles

- Share and celebrate those things that unite, whilst acknowledging the diversity of beliefs and values within and beyond the school
- Provide an opportunity for Pupil's to ponder ultimate questions that life presents and know that others of all ages ponder them too
- Offer insights into religious and other beliefs and commitments in an open way
- Reflect on something special or separate from ordinary school activities and may be directly or indirectly concerned with reverence.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship (see attached appendix).

Collective worship at Red Oaks implies more than a passive attendance. It should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils even though, on a particular occasion, some of the pupils may not feel able actively to identify with the act of worship.

Content of collective worship.

Our assemblies themes at Red Oaks may include:

Cross-curricular themes, environment themes, items related to local, national or international news, celebrations and festival themes, charity club items, helping hands news, life stories reflecting on dilemmas and life choices, a special visitor, a celebration of nature, values and British values, human achievement and relationships.

In order to create an appropriate atmosphere for collective worship in each assembly:

- ✓ selected music is played as the Pupils enter and leave any assemblies taking place in the hall
- ✓ time is allowed for reflection or thought (a focus point such as a picture or artefact maybe provided to encourage this reflection)
- ✓ a song is sung during assembly (the children are taught a variety of appropriately themed songs)
- ✓ if a specific prayer is said the words 'Let us pray' are used and NOT 'Dear God'.
- ✓ Pupils are encouraged to enter and leave assembly quietly - if this is in the hall

The following pattern of assemblies is usually followed:

Monday - values - Head teacher

Tuesday - Teacher led/ Class led/ Committee led

Wednesday -Singing assemblies (time for a reflective moment or prayer given)

Thursday - Teacher led/ Class led/ Committee led

Friday - Whole school celebration assembly - Head teacher

Assembly themes are monitored by the assembly coordinator and Collective worship is monitored by the Head teacher, SMT and Governors

Guidance for this policy was taken from document by SACRE

"Time to Breathe" New guidance on Collective worship 2012

Collective Worship Policy.

Appendix 1: Right to withdraw from collective worship.

In **England and Wales** Parents have the statutory right under [Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#) to withdraw their children from RE lessons and acts of Collective Worship at all maintained schools, including faith schools. Parents are not obliged to give a reason for requesting withdrawal.

The parental right to withdraw a child should be freely exercisable and the school must give effect to any such request.

Before exercising any right of withdrawal we would recommend discussing your concerns with the Head Teacher.

Requests for withdrawals are best made in writing, the simple text below should be perfectly adequate.

As parents of **[Child's name]** we formally request that **he/she** is withdrawn from **worship/RE** of any kind in future, without any detriment.

See related statements below which are direct extracts from the Standards act in 1998.

2(a)the reference to religious education given in accordance with the school's basic curriculum is to such education given in accordance with the provision included in the school's basic curriculum by virtue of **[F1section 80(1)(a) or 101(1)(a) of the Education Act 2002]** , and

(b)the reference to religious worship in the school includes religious worship which by virtue of paragraph 2(6) of Schedule 20 takes place otherwise than on the school premises.

7)Regulations shall make provision for securing that, so far as practicable, every pupil attending a community or foundation special school—

(a)receives religious education and attends religious worship, or

(b)is withdrawn from receiving such education or from attendance at such worship in accordance with the wishes of his parent.