

# Appendix 1: Collective Worship Policy

## Bentham CP School

### **Policy for Collective Worship**

#### **1. Introduction**

Bentham Community Primary School is a local authority maintained school, in North Yorkshire, catering for children aged from 3 to 11.

This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

#### **2. Policy statement**

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

The aims of collective worship in Bentham Community Primary School are to promote spiritual, moral and cultural development. It is an opportunity for the whole school to meet together and have a shared experience to discuss and explore values. It is important for the whole school to meet together to have a central reference point and have a common and shared experience.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.

Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, which are contrary to their family background.

They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.

Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow, etc.

Collective worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated on a yearly basis by senior leaders and governors seeking staff, pupil and parental opinion.

### **3. The legal requirements: the Education Reform Act 1988**

#### Organisation

Collective worship takes place on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 9am. This is a whole school assembly and Reception children will come to appropriate assemblies based on teacher judgement in Summer term as part of transition. Nursery children are not expected to attend assembly. On Friday at 3pm we hold a praise assembly and invite parents of a particular class on a rotational basis. On a Thursday a class assembly is held.

#### Style and Character

- The school provides a daily act of worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

We have many visitors that are invited to lead our assemblies. We have leaders from NISCU who hold assemblies. We have local church leaders from different denominations mainly, Methodist, Church of England and Catholic. We also have local community groups as well such as 'Open the book' a church based group but also the library will hold assemblies as well as the fire service.

#### Interpreting the law for our school

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Parents are asked to contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns.

## Arrangements for those children withdrawn from Collective Worship

It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case the following arrangements will be made. They will spend time in the classroom by a supervised by a member of staff and will take time to reflect and complete activities around growth mindset and positivity, such as writing positive affirmations or completing mindful colouring.

### **4. The content of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship may include the following:

Collective worship is mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Collective worship that is 'broadly Christian' is inclusive in that it deals with universal human values and issues that concern us all, Christians and non-Christians. It is about our duty as a school to develop pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. This includes learning about interesting cultural traditions and their meaning, listening to stories with a moral message and reflecting on themes such as strength, courage or loyalty. Collective worship draws pupil's attention to our school values both as a body and in each individual. Collective worship is about the growth of the person, their character and social outlook, whatever their academic aptitudes.

The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils: to provide opportunities for reflection: to celebrate the good, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

### **5. Conclusion**

Collective Worship is an opportunity to

- Engage in an act of community.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar as well as other faiths.
- Are a special time.

Policy written by Mrs A McGregor

Date 25.4.23

Approved 05.05.23

To be reviewed May 2025