

# **EP COLLIER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **School Context**

EP Collier Primary School's community is drawn from a diverse and multicultural community which includes a range of socio-economic groups, many different family structures and practices and a wide variety of languages, beliefs and religions.

At EP Collier Primary School we are very proud of this diversity which we believe enhances all of our lives and the education process. We believe that each individual has the right to equality of access to, and achievement in, an educational setting that will facilitate them to fulfil their potential. The school believes that this is best achieved in an environment where each individual understands their right to respect and courtesy and where they are valued as an individual.

EP Collier Primary School is opposed to any form of discrimination and are committed to developing caring, responsible and independent citizens who are motivated towards learning and who value themselves and others (see EP Collier Accessibility and Equality Scheme including Anti-Bullying and Discriminatory Policy Framework and Public Sector Equality Duty.)

### **Collective Worship at EP Collier**

The 1996 Education Act requires that:-

- all registered pupils must attend a daily act of collective worship, including those children below statutory school age (unless withdrawn by parents)
- the act of collective worship can be at any time of the day and in any activity grouping (though not faith grouping)
- the majority of acts of collective worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" and should "reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief" without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination
- the act of collective worship should be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of the pupils
- teachers have a right to withdraw on religious grounds from the act of collective worship

If any parent wishes to withdraw their child wholly or partly from the act of collective worship, he or she should speak to the Head teacher.

The Head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for ensuring that there is a daily act of collective worship in consultation with the governing body.

At EP Collier, Foundation Stage Nursery and Reception Classes arrange their own daily act of reflection as suitable for the age and stage of development of the

children. These classes are invited to join and contribute to whole school assemblies on Friday mornings (when deemed appropriate) and on occasions throughout the year, for example, Harvest, Diwali, Christmas, Easter.

In Years 1 to 6 the daily act of collective worship will usually take place as part of afternoon key stage assemblies. Teaching staff and/or support staff attend assemblies and the daily act of collective worship.

Key stage assemblies and acts of collective worship are led by teaching staff on a rota basis. Whole school assemblies and acts of collective worship are usually led by the Head or Deputy Head teachers. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in assemblies.

### **Aims of Collective Worship at EP Collier**

At EP Collier Primary School we believe the act of collective worship should be a celebration and a time for reflecting on things that have worth and meaning to our school community.

We aim to create an atmosphere in which genuine worship may take place, where children's own beliefs are valued and where each child has the opportunity to respond in their own way.

Collective worship is intended to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children. We aim to provide experiences which deepen the inner senses, give children a purpose and meaning to life and develop feelings of self-worth and a sense of belonging to our community.

We aim to encourage children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Develop an understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings and beliefs
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's perspective and beliefs, whether it be religious or not

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship at EP Collier develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

## **The Nature of Collective Worship**

- Monthly themes or thoughts for the day are chosen which provide a focus for the act of collective worship. The themes generally complement the SEAL assembly themes
- Music is played at the start of assembly to create a sense of special time and place
- The content of collective worship may vary from day to day but generally will include one or more of the following: prayer, singing/music, storytelling including Bible stories, art-religious paintings and pictures, visitors, stillness and silence, celebrations/remembrances
- The act of collective worship must involve a short time of silent prayer or reflection. It is the private response of each participant that constitutes the worship. The children are invited to join in collective worship by bowing their heads or looking at the person leading the time of prayer or reflection
- Visitors are often invited into school to participate in assemblies. These may represent religious groups or the local community
- Worship is intended to be mainly of a broadly Christian character with stories from the Bible and different faiths used in the context of the monthly theme or thoughts of the day
- Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter are celebrated by the whole school
- Other festivals such as Eid, Diwali, Hanukkah, are also included at appropriate times to reflect the life of the school community
- 4 or 5 songs or hymns will be chosen each term by the Senior Leadership Team and will be practised and introduced through weekly singing assemblies