



# The Forest CE Federation

'Small enough to care. Large enough to inspire

Valuing all God's children '

*All things are possible for one who believes' Mark 9 v 23*

## Collective Worship Policy

**Reviewed: November 2019**



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## **Ethos**

Everyone is valued as an individual and helped to develop and progress in their own unique way within a Christian environment. The curriculum we offer is not merely academic, but embraces the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils. The development of good social, interpersonal skills and enthusiastic, but also thoughtful and caring attitudes in all our pupils is central in preparing our children for life in Britain and a global society.

## **Aims and purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

## **Collective worship**

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.



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## Organisation of collective worship

- We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms a part of each assembly, which is normally a whole school assembly.
- We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. Children are actively encouraged to participate during collective worship. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, the bible, candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- All staff are involved in the delivery of collective worship. Visitors are also welcomed in to lead worship.
- We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Each term our collective worship focuses on one of our Christian Values. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- We invite parents to Collective Worship both in school and within Church and we encourage them to attend. Parents attend our **VIP assemblies** once a month. This promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.
- We have joint worship across the Federation for Easter and Harvest .

## Right of withdrawal

- We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the



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supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

- The headteacher keeps a record of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

## **Monitoring and review**

- All governors take the responsibility for monitoring collective worship and evaluations are carried out. Pupils are also encouraged to comment on collective worship by recording their thoughts in our special pupil evaluations book.