

# BLACK HORSE HILL INFANT SCHOOL



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

Approved by Committee \_\_\_\_\_

28<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Approved by Full Governing Body \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_(Chair)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_(Headteacher)

# **BLACK HORSE HILL INFANT SCHOOL**

## **POLICY DOCUMENT - COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The school follows the guidelines as set out in the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. Each member of staff has a copy.

### **The law of Collective Worship**

The requirement of the 1944 Act for daily collective worship is re-enacted in the 1988 Act (Sec.6(1)) and in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Sec. 59, 60, 69, 71 and Schedules 19 and 20). All pupils at community, foundation or voluntary schools shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship. This includes students in the sixth form. P70 (1). Pupil Referral Units are excepted from this requirement.

### **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities. It should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a being or power regarded as supernatural or divine. However, it can be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

### **Aims**

1. To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
2. To encourage participation of worship or through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered.
3. To develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.

### **Collective Worship is about:**

Developing a sense of awe and wonder at the world around us;

Celebrating the beauty of life and living;

Heightening sensitivity;

Searching for meaning;

Offering a spiritual dimension;

Communicating with God;

Affirming positive values;

Exploring right and wrong;

Reflecting on broader and more lasting concerns;

Valuing things of worth;

Leading towards the threshold of worship;

Creating an atmosphere of reverence and mystery;

Sharing love, joy, hope, friendship, fears and sadness;

Giving thanks;

Participating in various ways;

Experiencing a caring community;

Encouraging a concern for others;

Being sensitive about the faiths of other religions and communities.

#### 4. Guidelines for Collective Worship

- a. The school family will gather together on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the school hall for an act of collective worship. On a Monday collective worship will be undertaken by each class teacher in their own classroom. The content and organisation will follow the guidelines for good practice provided in the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

The act of collective worship in the school hall on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will be led by the Headteacher, staff or an invited guest. Quite often children will take an active part in the assembly. Every other Tuesday there will be an 'Open the Book' assembly led by the local vicar and members of the Open the Book team, promoting Christian beliefs. They act out stories from the Bible, sing religious songs and invite the children to join in prayer. The children are actively involved in these assemblies.

During the other assemblies the content will usually reflect the happenings in the school and community making it relevant and real to the children. It will include a hymn/song, prayer/ quiet time and act of worship, which might be a story, drama, poem, music etc. It will be non-denominational and although broadly promoting awareness of Christian beliefs it will include reflection on other faiths.

- b. The Headteacher and subject leader will assume responsibility for the organisation of collective worship but all staff will take part.
- \* The right to withdrawal from school worship is available to staff. Parents/carers may make a written request to withdraw their child from school worship.

#### Prayers

Likewise with the use of prayers. It is reasonable to expect that all pupils present should listen to and reflect upon the meaning of the prayers that are being said; where it is hoped that they would join in the saying of them, they should be invited, not instructed, to do so.

- c. At the beginning of each term staff will be given a timetable informing them of the week during which they are required to lead collective worship. An assembly file is kept as a written record of all the assemblies that have included collective worship over the year.

- i. Each Friday the children will participate in hymn practice led by a teacher.
  - ii. Every other Tuesday, the Headteacher will lead an act of collective worship. This will be followed by fifteen minutes of Religious Education lead by the Headteacher. This will introduce or consolidate work planned in the school scheme of work. This also follows guidelines set out in the Wirral Agreed Syllabus for Religious education.
  - iii. Each Thursday collective worship will be lead by a class teacher in the hall, the teacher will introduce or consolidate work planned in the school scheme of work and the children will often have the opportunity to act, sing and pray and or quiet time.
  - iv. Each Wednesday the collective act of worship will be followed by a celebration assembly when children will receive birthday cards and certificates from school. Children can share at that assembly awards etc. from home. The headteacher leads this assembly and the Deputy Head and a Class Teacher often supports the running of the assembly or leads it should the headteacher be unavailable.
  - v. The Headteacher (in her absence the Deputy Headteacher) assumes responsibility for any acts of worship not included above.
- d. Parental / Community Involvement:
- i. Termly, the school will visit their local church, St Michael of All Angels.
  - ii. In the Autumn Term parents/carers, grandparents etc. are invited to share celebration acts of worship at Christmas time. Children and staff take part.
  - iii. During the Summer Term children in each class invite their parents/carers, grandparents etc. to a class collective worship in which the children take part.
  - iv. Throughout the year speakers from the community are invited in.
  - v. Music may be played to reinforce a calm, thoughtful atmosphere.

Sarah Lucan  
September 2019