



## BRIZE NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL Collective Worship Policy



Review Date Planned	Review Date	Date adopted by Governing Body
	May 2019	16th May 2019
May 2022		

### **Aims and Purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to promote a common ethos with shared values
- to develop in children a sense of community (school, village, national and world)
- to reinforce positive attitudes
- to celebrate differences and similarities and to encourage respect for cultures different from our own
- To increase sensitivity to the mystery in life and to encourage a reflective approach to life
- To encourage children to think and to question and to develop a moral code
- To create an atmosphere where worship and reflection can take place

Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or part of the school, comes together to celebrate shared beliefs, values and successes. It is an important part of each day and contributes to spiritual, moral, personal and social development.

### **Collective Worship**

In line with the 1998 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, reflecting on the broad traditions of Christian belief e.g. love as the central ethic, respect for the individual etc. We do, however, conduct assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to people of other faiths and none.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold whole-school assembly in our school every day. On Monday – Thursday it is in the morning, and on Friday it is in the afternoon as a celebration of the week.

We believe assemblies are an important time and keep an assembly routine to help children recognise this. We expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We tell children that assembly is a time for listening, thinking and reflecting. We encourage children to join in with the assembly through use of questions, song and drama.

The headteacher or other members of staff conduct the assemblies. Our assembly themes link with our PSHE work in classrooms and our school values. We also link our themes to traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and key events

in the Christian or school calendar. Our assembly themes are planned and agreed at the start of each term. Once a fortnight, a member of the clergy leads a whole school assembly. Often throughout the year we are fortunate to be able to invite visitors to speak in assembly.

Some assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their successes both in and out of school. They play an important role in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and their opinions respected. We hold celebration assemblies once a week, during which children are identified for praise and given certificates. We invite parents to celebration assemblies once every half term and to class sharing assemblies twice a year.

### **Format**

Assemblies can include songs, stories, poems, reflections or information. Some assemblies include a prayer, but prayers are presented in such a way that children may join in or not, as long as they remain quiet and respect others.

### **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 supervision of the child during the period concerned. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was reinstated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. A record will be kept of all children who are withdrawn from collective worship.