

# **Eastwood Community School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Introduction**

Eastwood Community School is a school, in the Bradford Metropolitan District, catering for children aged from two to eleven years old.

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

### **Policy Statement**

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

In Eastwood Community School we recognise that school assembly is an important time in the life of a school, since it is a time when the whole school, Key Stage or class meets together to share information of concern to all. It is a time when children can become aware of being part of a larger community through the self-discipline and respect for others required in meeting together. It is a particular time amongst others in the school day when moral education can happen, with an awareness of the values that we would all share.

Assemblies in school will contain a great variety of content.

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.

Acts of 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.

We value the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensure that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated. Evaluation takes place through observation of children's attentiveness and levels of interest shown during the sessions and observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another.

## **The legal requirements: the Education Reform Act**

### **Organisation**

There is a whole school assembly every week on Mondays led by the Head Teacher. There is a “word of the week” which is planned to incorporate significant themes throughout the year. Key Stage leaders plan and deliver key stage assemblies that deal with topical issues connected with school, the local and wider community. There are weekly Key Stage assemblies that celebrate children’s successes and achievement both within school and in the wider community. Class teachers plan their own class assembly each week often focussed on the word of the week.

The school has a series of determinations which allow Muslim and Christian pupils to meet for worship according to their own faith once a week. These worship assemblies are led by members of staff, who themselves are practising members of their faith.

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so and appropriate provision will be made in these instances, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Please contact the Head Teacher to discuss any concerns.

### **The content of Collective Worship**

In assembly we need to ensure:

- Comfortable room, well lit, heated etc
- Appropriate seating
- Suitable entry music
- A recognised start and end is established to set the time for worship apart from other school activities

All these contribute towards making collective worship a different and special occasion for the children.

Assemblies might include:

- Stories
- Poems
- Songs
- Music
- Readings
- Silence – for reflection, thought, silent prayer
- Drama
- Film, photographs, power point presentations
- Range of visitors.

Eastwood Community School assemblies are characterised by:

- Active involvement and participation of as many pupils as is appropriate
- Content as interesting, reflective and current as is possible
- An awareness of the possibilities of worship
- An acceptance of the possibility of God
- A desire to present things in depth
- Attitudes of delight, wonder, openness to sorrow, joy, tranquillity and disturbance
- An attitude of standing alongside, looking together and sharing something
- Involvement of pupils and adults in a shared experience of the school acting as a community
- Enhancing the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

Document Control

Adopted and ratified by Governors

May 2016

Due for review

May 2018