



# Collective Worship Policy

At Ashfield Primary School, we understand worship to be a special act or occasion. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, our collective worship is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Whilst the majority of acts of worship in our school are broadly of a Christian character, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **Aims and purpose**

- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To develop a sense of community spirit
- To encourage participation and response
- To provide an opportunity for our pupils to worship

## **Organisation**

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This is usually in the form of an assembly which is for the whole school, although pupils attending the Early Years Unit participate as is appropriate to their age and development. It may be in key stages or classes. Sometimes classes have collective worship in class.

The Headteacher and all other members of teaching staff conduct assemblies. Local clergy and representatives of local religious groups are also invited to conduct assemblies.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection and we expect children to behave in an appropriate way by being quiet and thoughtful. We encourage curiosity and wonderment on the topics visited. We invite them to participate by answering questions, talking to partners and joining in with songs, reflections and prayers.

The themes for assemblies are based on the PSHE themes or other topical issues and we adopt a relevant ethos statement for the week. We relate these themes to traditions of the Christian faith and often reflect festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

We celebrate the achievements of our pupils both in and out of school by encouraging pupils to share trophies and certificates and to display their work.

We welcome parents and governors to our special assemblies eg Harvest Festival.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all pupils to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the 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 and School Standard and Framework Act 1998. The Headteacher keeps a record of all pupils who withdraw from collective worship.

Related policies: PSHCE, Religious Education

Reviewed by the Governing Body of Ashfield Primary School: 21/05/2025

Next review date: Summer Term 2026

