

## **Slimbridge Primary School**

### **Assembly & Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Assemblies including Collective Worship**

The school meets together every day to celebrate successes, discuss topical issues and share the school values for learning. Collective worship forms part of each day's assembly. The aims of collective worship are:

- **to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God**
- **to provide an opportunity for the children to consider the purpose and meaning of life**
- **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 towards themselves, others and the natural world.**
- **to teach children how to worship**
- **to provide an opportunity for calm reflection.**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. In line with the Education Reform Act 1988, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our collective worship on the traditions of the Christian Church. However, at times we reflect on other religious traditions represented in the school and the wider community. At all times, collective worship is conducted in a manner sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all school members, with an emphasis on calm reflection - we ask the children to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully and to participate in prayer and hymns.

**The head teacher and other members of staff normally conduct collective worship, though clergy or other representatives of local religious groups regularly contribute.**

**We comply fully with the Education Act 1944, as restated in the Education Reform Act 1988. Any parent/carer can request that their child be excused from attending collective worship, and does not have to explain their position or give reasons to support their request. If a child is withdrawn, the school makes arrangements for him or her to be supervised during the period concerned.**

**The headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.**

Our assemblies generally fall into one of three categories: celebration; topical issue; and ethos-related.

## **Celebration**

Celebration assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage all the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. These assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school, play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

## **Topical events and Multicultural understanding**

Some assemblies focus on topical issues and reflect events that are going on in the news. Some mark particular festivals and various awareness days. Some assemblies are focussed on developing children's understanding of our multicultural society locally, in the UK and nationally.

## **Ethos Related**

Ethos-related assemblies demonstrate and model the ethos of the school and focus on moral values and standards. Where possible guests will be invited to share their experiences.

## **Parent/Carer Attendance**

We invite parents/carers to join us in our Friday celebration assembly, and we consider this offers an important opportunity for parents/carers to feel part of the Slimbridge Primary School community.

Parents/carers, relatives and friends are also invited to our many special assemblies, such as Harvest Festival, our Leavers' Assembly and our Christmas service, which is usually held at St John's Church, Slimbridge.

## **Monitoring and review**

It is the role of the Governor with responsibility for RE and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The Governor liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the Governing Body, or delegated Committee, on religious education and collective worship.