



## South Avenue Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy

The daily act of reflection at South Avenue Junior School plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present.

#### **Aims:**

To provide pupils with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood);

To give pupils opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian (and other faith traditions') stories, events and festivals and how these might effect their lives;

To offer experiences and opportunities for pupils to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs;

To promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship.

These aims mean that our collective worship programme is such that we can include all our school community.

#### **Collective worship and the law:**

We comply with legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s) 'on grounds of conscience'. Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. The majority of our acts of collective worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in Kent and in Great Britain.

**Collective worship and parents:**

We emphasise the importance of our collective worship programme in developing our school's ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children to consider important issues for life and living. Parents do however have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the daily act of collective worship. This is made clear through the information contained in our prospectus. Parents who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to make an appointment with the Headteacher. If a child is withdrawn from collective worship they are supervised by an adult outside of the hall/room and are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.

**Collective worship and staff:**

Teachers (and sometimes teaching assistants/supervisors) take part in collective worship with their class. Pupils and staff organise and lead the weekly class-based act of collective worship. Resources are provided to help with this. However, if an individual teacher feels their own beliefs might be compromised by our programme of collective worship they can discuss this with the Headteacher, since they do have the legal right not to attend collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. Currently there are none of our teaching staff that withdraws.

**Collective worship organisation:**

We hold acts of collective worship every day. On Monday and Friday these are whole school and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays this is based in classes/year groups. We organise the programme around SEAL (Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning) in addition to our school ethos and values, themes and key events/festivals and materials/suggestions are provided to support staff and pupils/students as they lead collective worship. It is the responsibility of staff leading the act of collective worship to ensure that the content and form of delivery is accessible for all those present. Collective worship leaders need to ensure that over time the following opportunities are provided:

Use of the Bible and other sacred texts as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced. Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate;

Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days;

Opportunity for Christian children to pray 'the Lord's prayer' as an important traditional Christian prayer periodically and that others listen to it respectfully.

### **Whole school/key stage acts of collective worship:**

We aim to create an atmosphere of stillness and calm. To aid this, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall.

The usual format consists of an input from the leader, followed by a time of prayer and/or quiet reflection. Leaders are encouraged to actively engage pupils/students through for example questioning and drama.

The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time.

Visitors may be invited from time to time to lead one of our whole school acts of collective worship. The assembly, including the act of collective worship, usually takes 15 minutes altogether.

### **Class-based acts of collective worship:**

We aim to give our children/young people some 'space' to be quiet and to think reflectively during collective worship in their classroom.

These acts of collective worship may be led by the class teacher or by one or more of the pupils/students.

They usually take between 5 to 15 minutes.

### **Use of Visitors**

From time to time visitors come into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion. By drawing on people from the local community to lead acts of collective worship we enhance community cohesion. The Family Trust lead collective worship for both KS1 and KS2 once per term.

### **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

Please see relevant policies.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed as necessary or when legislation demands.