

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

### **Introduction**

At Cockwood we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. Collective Worship provides opportunities for our students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

### **Aims**

The central aims of Collective Worship at Cockwood Primary School are to:

- Provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection.
- Promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- Reflect the broad tradition of Christian belief (reflecting Christianity's multi-cultural and pluralist nature) and promote a positive ethos, drawing on the values and traditions of other religions as appropriate, helping to promote confidence in a pupil's own traditions and the ability to see value in the traditions of others.
- Help children develop an understanding both of the nature and language of worship.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Encourage children to take ownership of the writing and the delivery of (where appropriate) prayers and reflections during assemblies; linking them to the monthly school values and the school vision.
- Help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs, values and feelings of others.
- Support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs.
- Promote good behaviour based on self-discipline.
- Generate an ethos that is calm, happy and purposeful.
- Promote and develop a deeper understanding of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Ensure all children are aware of their rights.
- Explore the meaning of the different articles as set out in the CRC.

### **The Legal Position**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief." At Cockwood we have developed a range of themes and topics through which Collective Worship takes place. Key themes include love, joy, trust, forgiveness, justice and the value of all human life. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application.

We recognise that in our school there are a growing number of children with no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our Collective Worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld.

Collective Worship at Cockwood is an inclusive activity. Parents do have the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practise of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher.

### **Context of Collective Worship**

The structure of Collective Worship at Cockwood School is set out below:

Monday	Whole school assembly – Welcome and introduction to the new focus of the week.
Tuesday	Class-based worship on weekly theme, article or class issues in individual classes.
Wednesday	Whole school assembly linked to the theme of the week, a CRC article or the current value.
Thursday	Whole school assembly with a music focus on seasonal themes.
Friday	Whole school assembly –Celebration.

Each term a rota is made outlining themes for each week and songs to be sung linked to these themes.

We follow a cycle of important values – a different one every half term, that children explore both in PHSE lessons and during assemblies. The CRC articles are embedded into Cockwood's Collective Worship. The articles are linked to our school values, assembly themes, special days and events.

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. This includes our local vicar and other local Christian organisations which includes the ICE Team. We also visit our local church to celebrate and worship the key Christian festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We are supported there by our local vicar and church wardens.

We aim to give pupils time to reflect in each act of worship. We are developing a range of resources to enhance children's learning. These include stories, music, poems and power points, all of which we hope contribute to a stimulating and thoughtful time for our children.

### **Conclusion**

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development. Our aim is to create, nurture and sustain a sense of community during this time that helps to affirm our school identity and aspirations and enhances learning harmony.

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Signed Chair of Governors

Signed Headteacher

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