



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**APPROVED BY GOVERNORS: APRIL 2016**

**DUE FOR REVIEW:**

**RESPONSIBLE PERSON: HEAD TEACHER**

## **Background**

The school and its governors are aware of the legal requirements contained in Section 30 of the Education Act (1944), Sections 6-7 of the Education Reform Act (1988) and DFE Circular 1/94.

*In addition to this, the law states that:*

- collective worship should be provided daily;
- collective worship may take place at any time of the school day;
- schools may decide on the age/groupings of pupils and these may vary from day to day;
- the content of the majority of acts of collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief”;
- the content should have regard for the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils;
- parents may withdraw their children from collective worship;
- teachers should not be compelled to conduct collective worship.

## **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## **Aims of collective worship at Riverside School**

Collective worship adds value to the education process, since it provides an opportunity to:

- encourage pupils to develop an awareness of the universal moral principles of right and wrong, justice and fairness and a proper concern for the fate of others and the world;
- affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of the school;
- add to the pupils’ development an awareness of, and a sense of belonging to, the many different dimensions of the school’s community;
- experience the sense of gathering for a special purpose;
- share an experience that promotes thought and reflection;
- reinforce one of the school’s overall aims, namely to promote pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- foster both a group identity of and feeling of togetherness for staff and pupils;
- celebrate pupil and staff achievements;
- give pupils opportunities to communicate to a wider audience;
- consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response; and
- reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background; this may include worship of God within each participant’s own faith understanding.

## **Features of collective worship at Riverside School**

- a sense of awe, wonder and mystery;
- awareness of, and relationship with the natural world;
- stimulation of the senses;
- awareness of achievement, celebration and joy
- awareness of the community and its rituals and celebrations;
- awareness of self and others;
- a sense of personal worth and feeling of personal, group, class and school identity;
- awareness of other people’s perceptions and feelings;
- awareness of seeing the world from other points of view

## **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Riverside School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

## **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The contents of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Planning for Collective Worship will list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues, including sensory stories through massage to ensure continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place. It will also incorporate changes and events in pupils' lives, such as birth of a sibling, illness, bereavement, etc. Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance on acts of Collective Worship at Riverside School. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupil's awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.

## **The Act of Collective Worship**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection.