



## OAKLEY INFANT SCHOOL

### Policy for collective worship

*Thrive, strive and achieve together.*

#### **Rationale**

Collective worship is a time of togetherness and sharing for the whole school community. A chance to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special, as in line with the children's rights outlined in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.

**Article 14- I have the right to have my own thoughts and beliefs and to choose my religion, with my parents' support.**

We recognise that collective worship makes a valuable contribution to pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

#### **The legal Position**

The daily act of collective worship at Oakley Infant School follows the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Parents have the right, under the 1988 Act, to withdraw their children from all or parts of worship. A parent wishing to withdraw their child will need to make a written request to the Headteacher. Pupils who are withdrawn are provided with alternative activities and are supervised.

#### **Aims**

- To consider spiritual and moral issues which are of a wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- To help our pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to the beliefs, culture and values of others (Article 2 and 14 from the UNCRC).
- To participate and respond in various ways, i.e. through active involvement listening or joining in.
- To consider basic religious concepts.
- To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs (Article 14).
- To provide a time of quiet for reflection and prayer.
- To explore feelings such as awe, wonder, mystery and joy.
- To think of the needs of others and develop a sense of community.
- To celebrate achievements of others within the school community.
- To reaffirm, interpret and put into practice, the values of the school community.
- To recognise and celebrate cultural richness and diversity.
- To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

#### **The approach to Collective Worship**

At Oakley Infant School collective worship takes place daily. The Headteacher acts as the overall co-ordinator for the planning and delivery of acts of worship. Children, other members of staff and visitors, are also involved.

Themes for assembly are prepared in advance and reflect the Christian church year and promote the values of the school ethos. They also link with curriculum themes, special occasions and festivals and stories from other faiths.

Collective acts of worship should provide opportunities to reflect, respond and revere and should include and develop some of the following elements and attitudes.

The use of a candle will signify and provide a visual moment of 'awe and wonder' and an opportunity for reflection.

### **Elements of Worship**

- Songs and music from a variety of cultures.
- Prayer (both traditional, contemporary and simultaneous)
- Reflection and contemplation.
- Individual and group activity.
- Readings, sermons.
- Special clothing, artefacts.
- Discussion, speech and silence.
- Procession and ritual action.
- Food and drink.
- Dance and drama.
- Use of the senses.
- Artistic imagery.
- Different seating plans.

### **Attitudes**

- Sense of beauty, awe and wonder.
- Feelings of belonging.
- Respect for others regardless of gender, social, racial or cultural differences (Article 2 and 14).
- Sense of pride.
- Sense of pity, empathy.
- Sense of peace or thankfulness.
- Sense of shared sadness or loss.
- Sense of smallness in the face of the greatest of things.
- Sense of grandness in the face of the smallest of things.
- Sense of stillness in the midst of a busy experience.

*The general pattern of collective worship, each session to last approx. 15mins:*

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Whole school (hall)</i>	<i>Member of staff or visitor</i>
	<i>Weekly theme</i>	

<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Year 2 (Junior School) Bible stories – Open the Book prog Year R and Year 1 (hall) Weekly theme</i>	<i>Open the Book group Member of staff</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Class assembly (classroom) Weekly theme</i>	<i>Class teacher – This assembly can be taken at any time on Wednesday, either after lunch or in story time. The emphasis is on a “class” assembly and not just a circle time. Although the themes may overlap it is important that the children know this session is a class assembly and that it contains an act of collective worship.</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Whole school (hall)  Weekly Theme</i>	<i>Headteacher, member of staff or visitor</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Whole school (hall) ‘Celebration’</i>	<i>Headteacher</i>

### **Evaluation and Monitoring**

Provision is monitored and evaluated through staff meeting discussions and through interviews with children.

Approved by Curriculum Committee  
Review date

Nov 2025  
Autumn 2028