

# Fountaindale School

## Collective Worship Policy

Signed



Chair of Governors



Interim Executive Head Teacher

**Date of Adoption:** 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**Due Review Date:** November 2020

## Background to Collective Worship at Fountainsdale School

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Families who send their children to Fountainsdale School are in the main ‘nominally’ Christian, in addition there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Principal. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

### Collective worship

Worship from within a faith tradition has a very specific definition. A school community is not a worshipping community and the law recognises this by requiring “collective” not “corporate” worship. Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worth-ship. This might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to God and/or people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit. Collective worship does not pre-suppose shared beliefs, and should not seek uniform responses from pupils. Collective worship caters for a diversity of beliefs and points of view, allowing individuals to respond as individuals.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

### Values and Aims

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:



- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

## Objectives

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular Collective Worship at Fountaindale School develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth. We use Collective Worship as a time to:

- Show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community
- Celebrate special occasions together
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world
- Share and celebrate learning within the school
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings, through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

## Planning

At Fountaindale School, whole school assemblies take place on Tuesdays and are conducted on a rota by class teachers and their pupils. These are often sharing assemblies where the students have the opportunity to celebrate their work and share, with the wider school community, their achievements in class over the preceding weeks. At the end of each assembly there is a period of quiet reflection.

In addition to the assemblies mentioned above there are also whole school assemblies to celebrate special times on the Christian calendar, notably Christmas and Easter. Fountaindale School has made links with Seymour Road Baptist Church in Hucknall, and Reverend Vanessa Hollingworth from the church has visited the school on many occasions, often leading whole school assemblies. Every Friday there is a Star of the week celebration assembly where we celebrate the hard work of the pupils and one pupil is nominated as the school Star of the Week. We also have Values assemblies, these are held on the last afternoon of each half term and are a celebration of our school values and those pupils who have shown commitment to each of these.

Fountaindale School is organised in to three strands, these are Pre-Formal (which also includes our Early Years Classes), Semi-Formal and Formal. Within each strand Collective Worship occurs on a daily basis.

In the Pre-Formal Strand, there are periods of reflection and celebrations of achievement at the end of each school day.

Pupils in our Semi Formal Strand also have the time for quiet reflection and for celebration of the things that they as individuals and as a group have achieved during the day. During the term there are times when the Semi Formal classes join together to share their learning through a variety of mediums including stories, music and dance.

Within the Formal Strand there are again periods of reflection and sharing of learning at the end of the school day.

### Success Criteria

We evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- A contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- A sense of occasion
- Enrichment of pupil's experience

### Some Challenges

#### Prayer

It is not always necessary to have a prayer and the use of regular moments of silence and reflection provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish.

#### Visitors

We enjoy the fresh approach which visitors can bring to our school worship, but we require them to adhere to our values. We have made links with some people who visit us regularly to lead worship.