



## **Kinsale Infant School Collective Worship Policy**

This policy explains collective worship at Kinsale Infant School and how we interpret the legislation set out by the government.

### **The legal requirements for Collective Worship**

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- the act of Collective Worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings
- it may happen at any time of the school day
- it has to take place on school premises
- the head teacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met
- all staff, including the head teacher have the legal right to withdraw from the act of Collective Worship. The head teacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organize and lead the acts of worship.
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

### **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.

### **The aims of Collective Worship**

#### **For the School:**

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Kinsale Infant School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

#### **For the Pupils:**

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Worship God
- Reflect on that which is considered worthy
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reflect on the direction of their lives
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate and respond
- Reflect on what it means to be human
- Consider the wonders and worries of the world

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

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Kinsale Infant 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 classwork 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 will 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.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

The Collective Worship Coordinator will plan the themes and then alongside the Leadership Team will monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or classroom. Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies, RE and PSHE lessons.

### **Leadership**

Every member of teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point during the school year.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

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

Termly planning sheets provide themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. These are displayed on the staff notice board.

### **The Acts 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 or method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, ability 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 the opportunity must be given to express response through reflection or prayer. In addition, music is played on arrival and as the children leave the hall, this is to aid their personal reflection and to emphasise the importance of a calm environment.

### **Withdrawal**

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly.

However parents may ask for their child to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right in the School brochure and asked to contact the head teacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal are recommended in Circular 1/94. Staff also have the right to withdraw. No pupils or staff currently withdraw.

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