

Elm C of E Primary **School**

Collection **Worship Policy**

Reviewed by the Governing Body on the 28th June 2011

To be reviewed in June 2014

Signed by P Rhodes Chairman

Elm Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

1. Aims and purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to encourage children to develop respect for others

2. Collective worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly by listening respectfully, and encourage children to join in with songs, activities and prayers if they feel they would like to do so.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', as a Church of England School, we base our assemblies on the teachings of Jesus and the traditions of the Christian Church.

However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. For example, children are invited to join in with prayers by responding with 'Amen' at the end but we respect the fact that some children may not wish to do this. However all children are expected to respect the faith of others by sitting quietly.

3. Organisation of collective worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily assembly, which can be for the whole school, a key stage or each class.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 Prayers are led by an adult or may be written and/or read by the children. Sometimes children take part in acting out scripted plays or in improvising to a story. Children are encouraged to reflect and relate assembly stories to their own lives and experiences.

3.4 The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

3.5 Each term we plan in outline the themes for the term ahead, and this includes key aspects of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar.

Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach

as part of the school curriculum particularly in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning).

Assemblies also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Therefore assemblies may sometimes relate directly to events in the life of the school.

3.6 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes, especially in our 'Proud of' assemblies on Fridays.

3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

3.8 We welcome parents' attendance at our church services. These are usually held at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. They take place in church and are led by a member of the clergy in liaison with the Head Teacher

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 To comply with regulations the head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 The policy and practice of collective worship is monitored by the Head Teacher, supported by the Foundation Governors. Children's views and ideas are sought periodically, for example through small group discussions and questionnaires. This policy will be reviewed every three years.