



# **Covington Park Primary School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

**(Linked to SMSC and RE)**

Our vision is to provide every child with an outstanding start to their education which will equip them with the necessary skills to meet future changes and challenges throughout their life.

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### Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Covingham Park Primary School is closely linked to our RE syllabus and our British Values and SMSC provision. The values of Collective Worship are also delivered through curriculum provision as follows:

At Covingham Park Primary School SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) education is integral to children's learning. A cohesive learning community is created through the inclusion of SMSC learning in our curriculum. Children respond confidently to the opportunities within the curriculum, and are inspired as lifelong learners with many positive choices for their future.

Our pupils represent many different faiths. RE is taught, primarily, through the celebration of special events and occasions in different religions, as well as focusing on Christian teachings.

RE is closely linked with the daily social and moral life of the school. Pupils will be helped to acquire a respect for religious and moral values as well as an understanding of and tolerance for other religions, races and ways of life.

### Assemblies

Assemblies are at the forefront of our provision for Collective Worship. Our assemblies are linked to our four school drivers:

- Aspiration
- Community
- Independence
- Enquiry

These school drivers are incorporated into planning every term and assemblies are linked to these as well as links to SMSC and British Values.

Our assemblies are closely linked to our PSHE curriculum, which became compulsory in all schools in September 2020 and offers a whole framework for promoting social and emotional literacy, supporting children with:

- social awareness
- managing their feelings
- motivation
- empathy
- social interactions.

The framework is divided into the following strands to be covered within a school year:

- health and well-being
- living in the wider world
- relationships

These themes are linked to our whole-school, cross-curricular approach to assemblies.

During our assemblies, all staff and visitors support children in the development of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) understanding. Assemblies also provide an opportunity for staff and children to come together to celebrate each other's successes.

We welcome visitors from all religious communities and are privileged to have close links with the local Church.

Throughout the year each of the four school drivers are explored in our whole school and Key Stage assemblies. Children are often asked to reflect on what they have heard in the assembly and in class discussions and reflection.

Collective Worship at Covingham Park Primary School is planned to:

- *Contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;*
- *Provide a worthwhile educational experience which takes account of pupils' age, aptitude and family background;*
- *Provide opportunities for staff, pupils and members of the wider community to contribute to the life of the School;*
- *Provide opportunities for celebration and reflection;*
- *Enable pupils to reflect on broadly Christian and other worthwhile values and beliefs;*
- *Provide a worship experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths;*
- *Provide pupils with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, and something to respond to".*
- *To promote and reinforce our school drivers and our British values*

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Covingham Park Primary School include opportunities for:

- The whole community to celebrate;
- Sharing and experiencing differences;
- Building a sense of group identity;
- Encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- Exploring feelings and emotions;
- Gaining more confidence in front of an audience;
- Learning how to reflect on themes and ideas;
- Making visible the school's leadership;
- Developing inner awareness;
- Developing an awareness of others' beliefs, cultures and festivals;

- Developing a spiritual awareness with space and time for reflection and stillness;
- Developing and reflecting upon social and moral issues.

### Legal Requirements

Collective Worship is “broadly Christian” but regularly draws on teachings from other religions. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship however we encourage parents who may be considering this to discuss it fully with the Headteacher.

### Early Years Foundation Stage

Throughout children’s Reception year they will gradually begin to learn the skills needed to participate fully in Collective Worship. This is delivered through a gradual build up of attendance at developmentally appropriate sessions throughout the year. During terms one and two (Autumn Term) children have access to PSHE, SMSC and RE as part of the taught curriculum (both adult directed and child initiated). They will begin to learn the skills needed to attend to input in a larger group through whole class sessions and attendance at Singing Assemblies (Term Two).

During Terms Three and Four (Spring Term) children begin to attend Key Stage assemblies, with attendance at whole school assemblies being introduced in terms five and six (Summer Term). During the Spring and Summer terms children continue to have access to the PSHE, SMSC and RE curriculum as mentioned above. For whole school assemblies, it is left to the class teacher’s digression to judge whether the content will be accessible to the children. If they deem this not to be the case, similar content will be delivered in class at a level appropriate to the children’s age and developmental stage.

### Equal Opportunities and special needs issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within their class.

### Responsibilities of Collective Worship Coordinator are:

To monitor and evaluate Collective Worship and to revise planning of assemblies as required.

### Responsibilities of Head Teacher and Governors are:

To ensure that the legal requirements are met; resources are available and policy is implemented.

A named Governor will observe and monitor Collective Worship on a regular basis on behalf of the Governing Body and Head teacher.

Organisation:

Monday: Whole School Assembly

Tuesday:

Wednesday: Celebration assemblies

Thursday:

Friday: Singing assemblies

The timings of assemblies are not rigid but can change to meet the needs of the children and to discuss current affairs.

Assemblies are planned and coverage is linked to our school drivers, SMSC and Our British Values as well as theme days, religious festivals and celebrations.