Collective Worship Policy

Introduction

At Beechcroft Infant School, we provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils, as required by law under the Education Reform Act (1988). Acts of worship remain required to be *"wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature"* whilst being inclusive and respectful of the beliefs and backgrounds of all pupils.

In line with the Department for Education's intention to update national guidance to reflect current legal expectations—including the need for collective worship to be delivered in an objective, critical and pluralistic manner—this policy has been reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

Responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the Headteacher, following consultation with the Governing Body.

Understanding "Broadly Christian" Worship

Broadly Christian worship includes elements that reflect the traditions, teachings and values of Christianity, such as:

- Recognising the teachings and actions of Jesus Christ.
- Exploring themes such as love, compassion, forgiveness, courage, respect, cooperation, honesty, and truthfulness.

However, worship is delivered in a way that is:

- Inclusive of pupils of all faiths and none.
- Rooted in shared human values.
- Objective and non-indoctrinatory, in anticipation of new DfE expectations following national legal developments.

Acts of worship always consider pupils' ages, aptitudes, cultural backgrounds, and individual needs. Where a significant proportion of children come from non-Christian backgrounds, the Headteacher and governors may apply to SACRE for a determination.

Purpose of Collective Worship

At Beechcroft Infant School, Collective Worship aims to:

- Give expression to, reaffirm, and practise the core values of the school community.
- Strengthen and support the school community and its individual members.
- Promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, in line with current SACRE expectations.
- Celebrate achievements across the school and wider community.
- Foster respect for self and others and develop empathy and social responsibility.
- Provide opportunities for reflection on the world, relationships, and personal growth.
- Create a sense of specialness, with space and time for stillness and quiet reflection.
- Lay foundations for pupils to make informed choices about beliefs and values as they mature.

Organisation

- A daily act of collective worship takes place at 2:30 pm Monday–Thursday in the Hall, with a Celebration Assembly each Friday at the same time.
- Collective worship is a shared experience involving participation and age-appropriate responses from pupils.
- Opportunities are provided for children to learn and join in with the school prayer if they wish.
- Acts of worship may include:
    - Prayer or reflection
    - Silence and stillness
    - Stories, drama, artefacts
    - Music, including modern and traditional hymns or songs
    - Poetry or readings from religious or secular sources
- When appropriate, reference is made to world religions, cultures, festivals and global issues in a respectful and inclusive way.

Planning

Collective Worship is planned:

- Using *Feel Good Assemblies* and other high-quality resources.
- Around major religious and cultural festivals.
- In response to local, national or global events.
- To reflect and celebrate pupils' work and achievements.
- To promote shared school values and support wider curriculum links.

Evaluation

Evaluation takes place through observation and questioning during worship. Pupil voice helps shape future planning.

Monitoring

Collective Worship is monitored by the RE Coordinator.
Staff discussions include:

- Reviewing content, themes and strategies.
- Ensuring suitability for different ages, aptitudes and needs.
- Considering variety in style, grouping and leadership.
- Reviewing links to curriculum and classroom learning.
- Reflecting on resources and budget.

Inclusivity Statement

No child will be denied access to Collective Worship because of their beliefs, background, learning needs, disability or any other protected characteristic.
We ensure that the delivery of collective worship respects the rights and identities of all pupils, in line with developing expectations for objectivity and pluralism.

Withdrawal Clause

Parents and carers retain the unconditional right to withdraw their child from all or part of Collective Worship. Sixth-form pupils may also withdraw themselves; although this does not apply in our setting, it remains part of the legal framework.
Staff also have the right to request exemption from leading or participating in acts of worship.

Where a child is withdrawn, the school will provide appropriate, inclusive supervision that avoids stigma and protects the family's privacy—reflecting recent human-rights discussions.

School Prayer
Children may participate in the school prayer if they choose:

God bless our school,
that in working together and playing together,
we learn to love you and to love each other.
Amen.

Participation is voluntary for pupils and staff.