

# South Molton Community Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

Adoption date	02 12 15
Review date	February 2023
Next review date	February 2025
Review schedule	Biannual
Portfolio with responsibility	Curriculum

### Collective Worship

Collective Worship / Assembly are regarded as important and worthwhile educational activities, making a unique contribution to the curriculum of the school. They are perceived as a special gathering of the school community at which the common ethos and shared values of the school are considered and celebrated. In our school collective worship is delivered both in whole school assemblies and as classroom discussions and circle time.

The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 70 and 20 requires that worship should be 'wholly or mainly Christian' and for this to be so it should 'reflect on the broad traditions of Christian belief' and 'not be distinctive of any denomination' (E.R.A. section 7.1).

Assemblies reflect and refer to **both** the traditions and liturgical calendar of the Christian Churches (e.g. Christmas, Easter), **and** the religious traditions and calendars of all other faiths that are represented in the school and the wider community (e.g. Eid, Chinese New Year).

We aim to provide a quiet, respectful situation where young children learn to interpret the different experiences and feelings that control their daily life enabling them to develop their own spirituality by gradually learning to accept and control their own beliefs and feelings and to understand that others around them may share or hold differing beliefs which should in turn be respected.

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each

morning assembly, which may be a whole-school assembly, a singing assembly, or an assembly led by a group of children. At least once a week the act of daily worship is held in class, possibly with a discussion aspect. The assembly on each Friday is a Celebration Assembly in which children share their achievements.

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 to the teachings and participate fully in reflection and singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The headteacher or other members of staff normally lead assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups are invited into the school to share the leadership of the assembly. Children also share in leading assemblies. 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. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

### **Rights of withdrawal**

We firmly believe that collective worship is an important aspect of children's learning. We fully recognise the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from all or any part of collective worship on the grounds of conscience. We do encourage parents to contact the Head teacher if they have any concerns about provision and practice at the school.