



**Collective Worship Policy  
2024 - 2027**

# Holywell Primary School, Upchurch

## Collective Worship Policy

*Holywell School is a safe school and follows  
Government PREVENT protocols to ensure it stays that way.*

### **AIMS AND PURPOSE**

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 teach children how to worship.

### **CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

As a school that respects the rights of the children and adults in our school family, community and beyond, we aim for each school policy to adhere to articles from **UNICEF's Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

In this policy, we are working towards the following articles:

- **Article 15** - We aim for all members of the school community to treat each other with respect.

### **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

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.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we base our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### **ORGANIZATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This takes the form of either a whole-school assembly or key-stage assembly.

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, prayers, hymns and songs.

The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead. We also invite other guest speakers, such as representatives from Family Trust and community groups such as the local police.

We take the themes of our assemblies from our school values, the UN Rights of the Child and the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect 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. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

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. Holywell Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

Parents and governors are invited to attend special assemblies, such as End of Term celebrations and Class Assemblies.

### **RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL**

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.

The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed annually. Its implementation and effectiveness will be monitored annually by:

- Senior Leadership Team
- RE Leader

## **APPENDIX: 1**

### **POINTERS IN GOOD PRACTICE IN SCHOOL ASSEMBLY FOR SPEAKERS**

The following guidelines have been prepared for speakers in school assemblies to clarify what is required in terms of content, presentation and time, to make the experience as effective and educational as possible for all concerned.

- do think carefully about what you are going to say; consider the main points that you wish to convey and how to do this as clearly as possible.
- think about the ages and abilities of the pupils, and about the relevance of what you are saying to their lives;
- involve the pupils wherever possible; think of imaginative ways of communicating with them;
- please remember that the pupils present represent a wide variety of beliefs; while you may share your own beliefs with them it is not appropriate to seek to convert them to a particular way of thinking. It is illegal to attempt to indoctrinate pupils or present collective worship that is distinctive of a particular denomination;
- allow pupils time to reflect; a time of silence may be no less spiritual than a spoken prayer;
- try to make any necessary arrangements concerning music, readings etc. well in advance so that the act of worship runs as smoothly as possible.