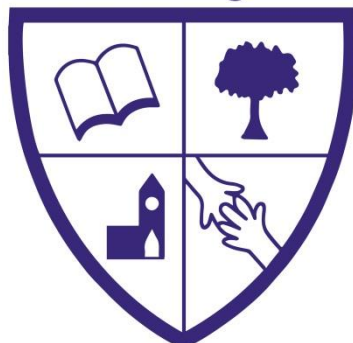


Turton & Edgworth



C.E.M.P.S.

## Collective Worship Policy

<b>Compiled by:</b>	RE Subject Lead
<b>Presented to staff:</b>	December 2013
<b>Presented to Governors:</b>	January 2014
<b>Presented to Parents/Carers:</b>	January 2014
<b>To be reviewed:</b>	Triennially
<b>Review dates:</b>	October 2018 November 2020, October 2023
<b>Amendments:</b>	Oct 23 - no amendments

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## **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 teach children how to worship.

## **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 worship.
- 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', we normally base our worships on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worships in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3** 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.

## **3 Organisation of collective worship**

- 3.1** We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, the majority of these are as a whole school but we also have class worship where year groups will be together.
- 3.2** We conduct worships in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship 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 prayer and hymns. 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** The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct worship, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.



- 3.4** We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. On some occasions themes are taken from other major world faiths. Sometimes the themes of our worship reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worships as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.
- 3.5** Our worships reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Our Worship Warriors group also evaluate and lead worships throughout the year. Worships 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. Turton & Edgworth Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in worship.
- 3.6** We invite parents to class assemblies on a regular basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- 3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our worships at any time.

#### **4 Right of withdrawal**

- 4.1** We expect all children to attend worship. 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** The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

#### **5 Monitoring and review**

- 5.1** It is the role of The Governing Body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if required.

