

## Guidelines for Collective Worship

### Frogmore Infant School

#### Legal requirements:

- Must be daily for all registered pupils
- Can be at any time of the school day
- Can be in whatever grouping but not specific religious groups
- Must usually take place on the school premises
- Should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character
- Pay regard to pupils' age/aptitudes and family background
- Parents have right to withdraw their child
- Teachers have the right to withdraw

At Frogmore Infant School we provide opportunities for stillness and reflection. We use phrases such as *'Now, a quiet time of stillness, a time to think'*.

#### Singing assembly

We believe that the act of singing is a very positive opportunity for celebration and reflection. During this assembly pupils will be given the opportunity to reflect on some of the words they are singing and will be provided with an opportunity to respond through a moment of quietness or prayer in an atmosphere that is one of reverence.

#### What is collective worship?

It provides a space and time where the transcendent can be appreciated or experienced by:

- Allowing a pause for reflection and stillness in the midst of the pressure of the school day
- Providing a rhythm to the life of the school by marking and celebrating special occasions and achievements
- Facilitating the development of a sense of community, of belonging and sharing
- Encouraging pupils to learn how to be part of large and small gatherings, as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation of readings, music, dance, drama or prayer

#### What is worship?

The legislation does not specially define worship. It appears that worship is a universal human activity which can be expressed as a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things held to be of worth.

#### What is meant by broadly Christian?

Plan around broad principles and values of Christianity which are appropriate to pupils whatever their background or personal beliefs.

Children cannot be withdrawn by teachers from collective worship. Only parents have the right.

The integrity of pupils and teachers is to be respected at all times. No assumptions will be made about their personal commitment.

## Effective collective worship at Frogmore Infant School

### Reflection

Time is given to reflect on a stimulus. To focus attention we may use a lighted candle, picture, music, poem etc. We ask for stillness and quiet. The aim is to identify a time which is respected by all those present and enable pupils/staff to reflect on a particular issue.

### Response

Worship demands a level of involvement. There is not a requirement for pupils/staff to worship, but opportunities are offered to respond in some way.

Responses might be expressed through silent thoughts or more overtly e.g. by

- listening to a short passage, poem
- singing or chanting together
- repeating or reciting a response
- movement or dance
- meditation
- silence or stillness

### Reverence

Reverence, together with awe and wonder, are essential elements of worship. It is the recognition, affirmation and celebration of the worthiness of certain realities and values, held to be of central importance to the community which worships.

*We aim to create an atmosphere which is conducive to worship. We provide opportunities to **reflect, respond and revere.***

It is essential to recognise that the practice of religious worship is precious and profoundly important to religious communities. We do not undermine the integrity of religious worship or trivialise the activity of praying, meditation or singing hymns by requiring pupils to engage in these activities in an empty or ritualistic way. The proper place for the open exploration of the character of religious worship is in religious education.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from collective worship (actual act of worship). If you wish to do so please speak to the headteacher. The headteacher can request that teachers are present to help with behaviour management such as leading into and out of the school hall and during notices and awards.

*The fairest thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science. He who knows it not and can no longer wonder, no longer feel amazement, is as good as dead, a snuffed out candle. **Albert Einstein***