



Approved by the Governing Body on: XXXX

Review Date: XXXX

## ONGAR PLACE PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Ongar Place Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The recruitment and appointment of staff, school policies and procedures always consider the safeguarding of children as the first priority.

Ongar Place will comply with the requirement set out in the 1988 education reform Act regarding Collective Worship.

An Act of Collective Worship will take place every day. The time at which this takes place and the form of Worship (whole school or class groupings) may vary from day to day.

The majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be mainly of a broadly Christian character.

The Act of Collective Worship will be non-denominational.

Every child will take part in the Act of Collective Worship unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians.

The Head Teacher will keep a record of all Acts of Collective Worship themes.

Whilst fully complying with the law, the school will be sensitive to the fact that not all children will come from religious families.

It is our aim that over the course of the year worship at Ongar Place Primary School will:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Support the social and emotional development of our pupils.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practice the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking guidance, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- Help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

### **Legal Status of Collective Worship**

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an Act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality Acts of worship as is practically possible.

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All Acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian values such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Ongar Place Primary School take into account the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The head teacher and governors, on advice from the RE subject leader, may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of pupils in the school from a particular non-Christian faith background.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of pupils. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens, the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the OHP, moment of silences and reflection etc

#### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Ongar Place Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/ and RE subject leader followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship at Ongar Place Primary School.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to the assembly of pupils

#### **Organisation:**

| <b>Day</b> | <b>Person Leading</b>                           | <b>Main Hall</b> | <b>Time</b>                    |
|------------|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday     | Head teacher                                    | Whole School     | 10:30 -10:45                   |
| Tuesday    | Worship through Music DH led                    | Whole school     | 10:30 -10:45                   |
| Wednesday  | Class teachers in rotation                      | Whole School     | 10:30 - 10:45                  |
| Thursday   | KS1 teachers in rotation<br>Reflection in Class | KS1<br>KS2       | 10:30 - 10:45<br>12:00 - 12:10 |

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Friday                    Achievement Assembly HT led                    Whole school                    10:20

**Planning, Recording and Evaluation**

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Themes for Collective Worship are planned each term based on moral values and recognise significant celebrations and customs in different cultures through the year. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective.

This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The schools council regularly seeks the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the schools council.

**Resources**

Resources for worship are available for staff use in the school library and should be signed out and returned electronically.

Agreed: ~~9<sup>th</sup> February 2016~~  
Reviewed: ~~January 2016~~  
Next Review Date: ~~January 2017~~  
Author: Head Teacher  
Policy: **Statutory**/Recommended

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