

# Haytor View Community Primary School & Nursery

## Collective Worship Policy 2016 - 17



*Learning together - enjoying success - aiming high - celebrating difference – enriching community*

### **Introduction**

At Haytor View we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

### **Aims**

The central aims of Collective Worship at Haytor View are to:

- provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community and all who belong in it, including the sharing of the gifts and talents of our children.
- help children develop an understanding both of the nature and language of worship □ help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others

### **The Legal Position**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. Furthermore, acts of worship "must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, i.e. reflect the broad traditions of christian belief." At Haytor View we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place, these largely follow the school's SEAL curriculum themes. We believe these themes are clearly Christian in nature but are universal in their application. We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith backgrounds and that many children have no religious background at all. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and special and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective Worship at Haytor View is an inclusive activity. Parents do have, of course, the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of our Collective Worship are strongly encouraged to contact the Headteacher.

### **Context of Collective worship**

In order to promote children's learning, our acts of worship vary in size. Our pattern is set out below, each of the five aspects will be reflected across a week:

1. Site - introduction of special theme (Monday)
  2. Phase/Class worship - related to stories of a mainly Christian nature
  3. Singing
  4. Whole School/Class - continuation of theme
  5. Whole school - Celebration (Friday)
- Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship;
  - Teachers share the responsibility for the provision of the daily act of worship within the school. In the event that a Whole School Act of Worship does not take place, teachers have the delegated responsibility for the provision of the daily act of worship within their class;
  - We will always seek to make the worship appropriate to age, ability & family background of pupils;
  - Wherever possible we will seek to include pupils in planning and leading acts of worship;
  - When considering themes the following areas provide useful ideas: festivals, inspirational figures, school events, curriculum, beliefs, values we promote, biblical narratives;
  - On occasions of a significant news item, we may divert from our planned themes; □ We will evaluate our acts of worship annually;

### **A Useful Quotation When Considering Acts of Worship:**

"Schools should sensitively try to evoke those senses and feelings from which it might be said that worship most naturally arises: e.g.

- Sense of beauty;
- Sense of awe and wonder;
- Feeling of pride;
- Sense of pity;
- Sense of smallness in the face of greatness;
- Sense of grandness in the face of smallness;
- Feeling of shared sadness;
- Sense of shared loss;
- Sense of place;
- Sense of thankfulness;
- Sense of stillness in the midst of a busy existence."

**Conclusion**

Collective Worship plays a very important role in our school as we seek to develop our children in the skills of reflection and empathy, to encourage and celebrate their talents and to promote their spiritual and moral development.