



'We strive to improve heart and mind'  
**Cor et Mentem Colere Nitimur**

At Chilton Foliat Primary School we honour our educational heritage, supported by a strong Christian ethos. We strive to provide a diverse education that inspires children to develop a thirst for knowledge. This is delivered in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment promoting self-discipline, motivation and excellence in learning. We encourage strong partnerships and positive relationships amongst pupils, parents, carers and the wider community.

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **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
- to help children to have the confidence to pray and follow a faith without embarrassment of being 'different'

### **1 Collective Worship**

- 1.1** 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. We expect everyone to take an active part subject to the right of withdrawal (see paragraph below).
- 1.2** 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 assemblies on the teachings of Jesus Christ and traditions of the Christian Church.

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

## **2 Organisation of Collective Worship**

- 2.1 We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. This forms part of each daily assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly. Friday is our 'Celebration' assembly, where we celebrate house points, Gold Book certificates, birthdays and other achievements in and out of school. A 'grace' is always sung before lunch.

- 2.2 We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We encourage the children to understand 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, to listen carefully to the teachings and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music as well as other aids to help children focus.

- 2.3 The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but once a week collective worship is conducted by our Rector, Rev. Simon Weeden or one of the other local ministers. Once a term, the older children plan and deliver an assembly based on that term's value.

- 2.4 We take the themes of our collective worship from 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. The subject leader plans our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day. These are based upon 'Values for Life' or Roots and Fruits. We may from time to time link our assemblies with the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) materials.

- 2.5 We encourage our parents and Governors to attend our Celebration assemblies as frequently as possible, 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.

- 2.6 On special festival occasions, collective worship takes place in the church.

## **3 Right of Withdrawal**

- 3.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending collective 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.

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

**4 Monitoring and Review**

- 4.1** It is the role of the Foundation Committee and subject leader, who have responsibility for religious education and collective worship, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The committee liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the FGB on religious education and collective worship.