

BARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE.



Collective Worship Policy

DATE: November 2009

TO BE REVIEWED: November 2011

Signed..... Chair of Governors

Date.....



Collective Worship Policy

Rationale.

Barton School and Early Years Centre, whilst not being a church school, fully recognizes the need for a Collective Worship time in which pupils can have an opportunity to celebrate their own faith and to become aware of the beliefs of others. Collective Worship times should provide a vehicle for experiences that do not exclude those of other Faiths or those that have no faith system. Everyone should feel comfortable with their own responses to experiences encountered within the Collective Worship times and it is hoped that these times will prove to be a unifying factor developing respect and care for the individual and for others.

1. Aims and Purpose

1.1 The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship their 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, the purpose of which 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 assembly.

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 assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our

assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 Whilst most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3. Organization of Collective Worship

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each morning assembly, which can be either a whole school assembly (although sometimes we hold separate infant and junior assemblies), or a class assembly.

3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children 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, unless parental right to withdraw their child(ren) from worship has been exercised, to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects to focus the attention of the children.

3.3 The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.

3.5 The assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and that all achievements are recognized.

Barton Primary School and Early Years Centre is a successful school and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.

3.6 Each week there is a particular assembly that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance as this promotes community spirit and shows the school and the home working together in support of the children's achievements.

3.7 Governor attendance at our assemblies is always welcome.

4. Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal 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 have been withdrawn from collective worship.

5. Monitoring and review

5.1 Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is a role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for monitoring religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the Governing Body

5.2 This policy will be reviewed every **two years**. 'year'