



## Collective Worship Policy Spring 2017



### Rights Respecting School

*Glusburn Community Primary School* is proud to be a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Our school was the first in North Yorkshire to receive the award in 2009.

This Policy covers the following Rights in respect of UNICEF's The Convention On The Rights Of The Child:

- **Article 29 (Goals of education):** Children's education should develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. It should encourage children *to respect others, human rights and their own and other cultures*. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

### Glusburn Primary School Mission Statement.

We want our school to be a place where everybody feels welcome.

We want all our children to feel safe and happy so that they can enjoy their learning and achieve to their full potential.

We will provide a stimulating learning environment, offering a variety of exciting learning opportunities and experiences within a broad and balanced curriculum.

We aim to give children the best possible start to their education by developing their independence, curiosity, imagination and desire to learn.

We will promote our common values and value our differences within the school and the wider community.

#### **Our common values**

- Show Respect
- Practise Manners
- Being Safe
- Working together
- Being Honest, Trustworthy and Responsible citizens.

#### **Every Child Matters**

Overriding common values:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Economic well-being



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### 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.

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.
- Sharing with students the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts 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.

### Assembly themes

Each week there is a theme / 'thought for the week' for Collective worship. These are published at the beginning of the term. 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 students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

*Each theme / 'thought for the week' is reflected upon in class as a daily act of worship.*

### Aims

It is our aim at Glusburn Primary School that worship should:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- 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 experience stillness and quiet
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

### Frequency of Worship

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship acts of worship may take the form of whole school assemblies for all staff and pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day in the hall or in classrooms

Acts of Collective Worship at Glusburn Primary Primary School take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Each class, throughout the year, takes an assembly celebrating their learning.



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### Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. For example when using a prayer from a particular faith, this is introduced with sensitivity and pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. There may be parts of an assembly, for example when a Christian hymn is sung, in which a pupil does not wish to participate. It is perfectly acceptable to withdraw from a part of the assembly by not participating. A parent may make a request for their child/children to be wholly or partly excused from attendance in religious worship at school.

Staff should ensure that they have informed the Head of their decision to exercise their right of withdrawal from collective worship, but should note the requirement that they may be required to assist in the supervision of pupils in assembly, as necessary.

### The Contribution of Collective Worship to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

At Glusburn Primary School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide students with Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

*Spiritual Development* is promoted by:

- the celebration of special achievements
- guided reflection
- consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings
- appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and which contribute to a sense of awe and wonder

*Moral Development* is promoted by:

- consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
- consideration of relationships
- encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives

*Social Development* is promoted by:

- coming together as a school / class group
- bringing visitors into school from the community
- sharing values and matters of concern

*Cultural Development* is promoted by:

- using music, art, drama, story and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
- exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture.