



## Freegrounds Infant School Collective Reflection Policy

### **1. Equal opportunities**

Freegrounds Infant School will endeavour to offer equal opportunity of access to all children regardless of gender, race, religion, disability or ability.

### **2. Rationale**

To conduct daily acts of collective worship in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and Hampshire County guidelines at an appropriate level for children aged 4 - 7.

#### Collective Worship

- allows a pause for reflection and stillness in the midst of the pressure of the school day;
- provides a rhythm to the life of the school by marking and celebrating special occasions and achievements;
- facilitates the development of a sense of community, of belonging and sharing;
- encourages pupils to learn how to be part of large and small gatherings, as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation of readings, dance, drama or prayer.

*"Worship is .....a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things held to be of worth"*  
Taken from, "Collective Worship in County Schools", Hants County Council

Please note that in our school we refer to 'Collective Worship' as 'Collective Reflection'.

### **3. Aims of Collective Reflection in our school**

Collective Reflection is a time of togetherness and sharing for the whole school community. It provides time for children:

- To recognise the importance of Collective Reflection time within the school day.
- To reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of our school community.
- To reflect upon spiritual and moral issues.
- To value and respect the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them.
- To participate and respond in various ways.
- To explore feelings such as awe, wonder, mystery and joy.
- To celebrate achievements of others in our school community.
- To raise awareness of the major world religions with special emphasis on family life, festivals and common themes.

### **4. Legal requirement and Guidelines**

Collective Reflection should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character." This means that over half (51% or more) of the assemblies provided over an entire year should "reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief," but should be non-denominational in character."

The way this is interpreted at Freegrounds Infant School is that we generally ensure that over half the assemblies over the year include some of the following:

- Stories from the Bible, both Old and New Testament

- Stories about notable Christians, historical or contemporary
- Information about Christian practice, such as prayer, missionary work, charity etc.
- Christian festivals
- Secular and religious stories with a Christian moral message
- Christian artefacts and images

Themes may be explored through story, drama, music, poetry or song.

Where possible, they will have a visual focus e.g. a picture, artefact, prop or movement and offer the children the opportunity for active participation.

A time will be set aside for worship or quiet reflection. This will be recognised as a sacred time for some people and be identified by the adult saying, "This is our special time for quiet worship or reflection."

An adult or child(ren) may say a prayer and children are invited to prayer.

Generally in any week there will be Collective Reflection led by:

The Headteacher  
 The Deputy Headteacher  
 Teachers  
 Children

Some Collective Reflection sessions will be led by a visitor e.g. local minister of various Christian denominations.

Occasional assemblies may be led by visitors from other faiths or secular groups e.g. a governor, policeman or teacher from another school.

## **5. Appropriate Atmosphere**

Care should be taken to create an appropriate atmosphere for Collective Reflection and the quiet entrance and exit of children should enable this.

For each theme a slideshow is accessible on the School's Shared drive, which will be played as children enter and leave assembly. Entrance music of a calm manner will also be used to encourage the appropriate atmosphere for Collective Reflection. This will be organised by the member of staff responsible for Collective Reflection. At this school this member of staff is Nikki Riches.

All staff will endeavour to ensure children are led promptly into Collective Reflection so it can begin on time and ensure some children are not waiting for a long period of time for the whole school to gather together.

Therefore, all children should be ready to begin Collective Reflection at 2.40pm and the session will begin promptly at 2.40pm.

The period of personal reflection will be marked by the lighting of a candle, which will remain lit throughout the reflection time.

Classes will sit in a way that allows them direct lines of access from their classes to the hall, in order to avoid bottle necks and unnecessary queues around the school.

## **6. Organisation**

Each week a theme has been selected which is broadly of a Christian nature.

This theme is shared with staff through the termly overview and with children through the Collective Reflection display in the hall, which will be updated by the Headteacher.

Collective Reflection takes place each day between 2.40pm and 3pm. Across the course of the week it is delivered in a variety of ways, but generally runs to the following pattern:

Monday - Led by Headteacher - introducing the theme for the week

Tuesday to Thursday - Led by class teachers

Friday - Values Reflection or Family Celebration Assembly.

## **7. Celebration through Singing**

For each theme, an appropriate song is selected so children can celebrate the theme through singing as well as the Collective Reflection experience itself.

## **8. Collective Reflection and SMSC/Rights Respecting Education**

Collective Reflection is an ideal opportunity each day to help the children learn, understand and celebrate the community and world in which they live and promote SMSC and British Values.

Opportunities to promote SMSC are detailed on the termly plan. The element of SMSC and the designated character for that area are identified on the long term plan for Collective Reflection along with the main British Value for the reflection.

The SMSC character will be taken into the hall for the reflection and staff will make clear which areas are being covered at the start or during the course of the reflection.

Where possible explicit links will be made to Unicef's Rights of the Child and these will be discussed as part of the Collective Reflection process.

## **9. Withdrawal from Collective Reflection**

It is a legal requirement that all children attend Collective Worship unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw their children from all or parts of worship under the 1988 Education Reform Act. In the event of this occurring, children are suitably occupied under the supervision of an adult.

Although Collective Reflection is non-denominational in character, we are mindful that parents may for various reasons wish to withdraw their children from Collective Reflection for reasons based on religion or belief.

If a parent does want to exercise their right to withdraw their child from Collective Reflection, they will be invited to attend a meeting with the Headteacher to discuss this.

## 10. School trips and off site visits

Although there is a legal requirement for an act of Collective Reflection to take place each day, there is also a requirement that this takes place on the school premises.

Therefore, although the school will endeavour to do its best, when children are taking part in educational visits that require them to be off the school for the whole day, it may not always be possible to provide Collective Reflection.

Agreed by Governors March 2011

Reviewed November 2015, November 2017, March 2020, February 2024

Review: February 2027

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