

## **Collective Worship Policy**

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day, unless they have been explicitly withdrawn by their parents.

These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Collective worship at Barker’s Lane brings together the whole ethos of our school, its atmosphere, the quality of relationships, its values and attitudes and reinforces its richness.

This document provides a statement of the schools aims with regard to Collective Worship. It is a document consistent with statutory requirements.

### **Aims**

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues, including human rights;
- reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature;
- respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus;
- share together emotions such as love, trust, loyalty, friendship, selfishness, forgiveness, patience, responsibility, confidence, happiness, help, tolerance, joy, delight, valuing ones self and to celebrate in the excitement and beauty of life and living;
- grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in every day situations and beliefs;
- deepen their sense of awe and wonder about the world around them, for truth and for facing the harsher realities of life;
- give opportunity to express humility, weariness, worry or admission of a need;
- allow positive reflection on success and failure in an open, honest and sensitive climate;
- to develop pupil awareness and understanding of the cultural traditions of Wales and other world cultures;
- recognise and respect diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not
- create an atmosphere in which one has the opportunity for silent reflection,
- repose, inner response and active participation;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes.

*Collective Worship is conducted in such a way as to maintain the integrity of those participants who do not believe in God. For those pupils / staff / visitors it is an opportunity to reflect on moral values and qualities.*

Collective Worship at Barker’s Lane Community School is carefully planned with meaningful arrangements. We make positive use of relevant displays and artefacts are used to promote interest and understanding.

We use poetry, music and knowledge and understanding of the world to help develop a sense of beauty and awe and wonder of the world. We make effective use of artefacts and encourage children to develop their own ideas and consider their own values and beliefs.

The act of Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis with all children. A variety of music is played on entering and leaving the hall to help create atmosphere conducive to worship and reflection. We encourage other Ministers, Preachers and speakers to involve themselves in our Collective Worship. Early Year take part in their own daily acts of Collective Worship, and do on occasion join with the whole school at various times.

Our time for Collective Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Barker's Lane Community School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children. We provide time for pupils to reflect and explore their personal feelings.

### ***Right of Withdrawal***

Parents retain the right to withdraw children from Collective Worship. If parents wish to exercise this right, they are requested to put this in writing to the headteacher.

### ***Additional Learning Needs***

Activities and stories are planned in such a way as to encourage full and active participation by all children irrespective of ability.

### ***Equal Opportunities***

Equality of opportunities is always observed with positive attitudes being developed, regardless of gender, race or cultural background.

### ***Health and Safety***

Children are continually encouraged to be aware of their own safety and the safety of others. We place emphasis on each individual learning to respect themselves incorporate moral values.

### ***Implementation***

It is the responsibility of the whole staff to implement this document. Our acts of worship are denominational in character and other world religions are viewed from a Christian perspective. They are designed to allow for the integration where appropriate of the Religious Education Syllabus with aspects of the Curriculum for Wales.

### ***Monitoring / Evaluation***

The SLT are responsible for promoting Collective Worship, for day-to-day co-ordination and arrange visitors.

The SLT are responsible for monitoring Collective Worship arrangements.

This policy was reviewed by Mrs Edwards in November 2022.

The next review will take place in Autumn 2025.