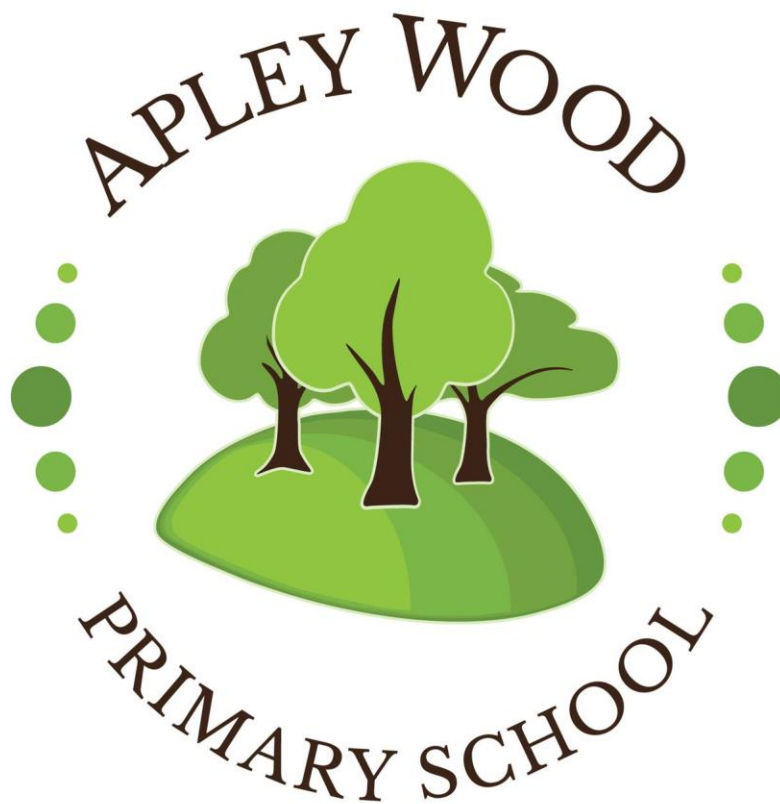


# Collective Worship Policy



Reviewed: September 2021  
Next review: Autumn 2023

## 1. Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship at Apley Wood are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God, a divine being or power;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to understand and appreciate the diversity of faiths in our school community;
- to encourage participation and response, whether through listening to or joining in with the worship offered;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to develop a sense of sharing, belonging, honesty, forgiveness, compassion and love;
- to teach children how to worship;
- to promote racial harmony and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination;
- to enable time for reflection and/or prayer.

## 2. Collective worship

- 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, as a class, key stage or whole school and participating in an assembly.
- 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 teaching of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold worship that reflects other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## 3. Guidelines for Implementation

- We hold a daily act of worship in our school. This is made up of whole school assemblies Monday and Fridays with phase assemblies for 2 days of the week (Foundation Stage –Y2 and Y3-Y6). Assemblies are held in individual classes once a week.
- We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm and reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate and respectful way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

- The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct worship, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them as well.
- We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Themes are also selected from Social Emotional Aspects of Learning and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes termly.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies showing their work to other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and outside school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements recognised. Parents are invited to special class assemblies and our times of celebration such as Christmas, Harvest and Leavers assembly.
- We welcome governor's attendance to our assemblies at any time.
- We value links between both the home and community to encourage positive behaviour, respect for others, care for the environment and care for the extended school family.

#### 4. Right of withdrawal

- We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious 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.
- The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship

#### 5. Monitoring and review

- Monitoring occurs through staff and pupil discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. It is the role of the linked Inclusion Learning Team governor with the responsibility for collective worship to report to the Governing Body on religious education and collective worship, supported by the Inclusion team leader.