



## Policy Document

### Collective Worship

Baldon School is a Community school. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join. We recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our students Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

#### Aims

It is our aim that worship should:-

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each student
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- 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 to experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection
- to help students to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- provide opportunities for students to experience other world religions and cultures

#### Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all students in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. The school accepts the desirability of this legislation but has considerable practical difficulties in meeting this requirement. 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.

To provide students with variety in their experience of worship, worship may take the form of a whole school act for all students 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.

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.

Acts of Collective Worship at Boldon School take into account the student's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds. The head teacher and governors may apply for a determination from SACRE if there are a large number of students in the school from a particular non Christian faith background.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At Boldon School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.