



Rowlands Gill Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Date: February 2016

Ratified by Governors: February 2016

Review Date: February 2018





Rationale

At Rowlands Gill Primary School we aim, through the Collective Act of Worship, to create a sanctuary in time for all to share together; a moment to pause; to reflect; to recollect; to celebrate special occasions or their own and others' achievement; to develop in each pupil a sense of unity and belonging.

We give due regard to the legal requirements of the **Education Reform Act 1988** in that the collective worship is a daily activity for all pupils. It can be at any time of the school day and in whatever groupings the school wishes. The collective worship takes place on the school premises and is mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the "broad traditions of Christian belief" but are non-denominational. Rowlands Gill Primary School take regard of the pupils' ages, aptitudes and cultural backgrounds. Parents retain their right to withdraw their children.

The Education Act 1993 states that:

"Every pupil attending a special school will so far as is practicable, attend collective worship and receive religious education unless the child's parents have expressed a wish to the contrary. It is for the school to decide what is practicable but, in general terms, the Secretary of State would expect the question of practicability to relate to the special education needs of the pupils and not to problems of staffing or premises."

Rowlands Gill Primary School encourages all pupils to be part of large and small gatherings as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to a presentation of readings, music or prayer.

We recognise that worship is a universal human activity which can be expressed as a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things held to be of worth. For many people worship involves commitment to a belief in God. However it can have a much broader and inclusive meaning. It can be a "form of human activity, when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us."

So that the integrity of pupils and staff is respected at all times, no assumptions are made about their personal commitment

Collective worship is led by the Headteacher and the two Assistant Head teachers and is conducted in: 'age' groupings in the context of a meal with prayer and with staff joining a family grouping, serving pupils and creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and enjoyment;

- Three weekly gathering of the lower school and three weekly gathering of the upper school, when themes such as love, honesty, conflict and suffering are explored in an atmosphere created to aid thought and reflection with a main focus such as a piece of music, a picture or a candle. Occasionally we may incorporate resources from a variety



of religions and where appropriate, invite representatives of a range of faith traditions to contribute;

- a weekly gathering of the whole school in a 'special award' assembly, held as a celebration of success in all areas of the school and community.
- It is planned to review this policy bi-annually or in the light of:
- changes in legislation
- DFEE/SACRE guidelines.

Rowlands Gill Primary School recognise that it is the duty of the Headteacher and the governing body, to see that these arrangements are carried out.