Religious Education Policy (including Collective Worship)

Introduction:
We believe that Religious Education provides an opportunity to celebrate and foster awareness of our diverse community. We believe that if our children understand each other's faiths they will respect one another and contribute to a harmonious and peaceful world. We offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our pupils, including new arrivals and non-native English speakers.

RE is taught in accordance with the aims of the Lewisham Agreed Syllabus.

Particularly relevant to our school are the aims which state:

- 'Religious Education should help pupils to develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own, and towards living in a society of many religions and beliefs.'
- 'Religious education will support children in reflecting upon developing and affirming their own beliefs, values and attitudes, through an exploration of shared human experiences and of the place and significance of religion in the contemporary world.'

RE provides opportunities for children to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of religions;
- explore issues within and between, faiths to help children respect different religions and traditions;
- learn about religious and ethical teaching;
- develop their sense of identity and belonging;
- prepare them for their life as citizens;
- reflect on, and analyse their own beliefs, values and practices

Legal Requirements:
In accordance with the law we provide religious education for all pupils registered at the school. The teaching of RE comprises 5% of the curriculum timetable as required by the Agreed Syllabus.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/ren from Religious Education. Parents who choose to withdraw their children are required to state this in writing annually to the Headteacher.

Background:
The 1988 Education Act requires that every school should provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The majority of which, each term, should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". Collective worship should "reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular denomination."

Collective worship is not the same as corporate worship. Corporate worship is the worship of people who have a common understanding of what worship includes and who share the same beliefs. A community school is not a worshipping community as the pupils who have a faith are diverse in what they believe, in what they believe God is and what they believe worship to that God or Gods should entail.

School Aims for Collective Worship:
At Holbeach Primary School we believe that collective worship enables children to reflect on:

- what it means to be a human being
- questions of meaning, purpose and value
- the best that human beings can be - inspirational, exemplars (people of faith or not) who have demonstrated good works through their actions, lives and qualities. *Examples will come from both religious and non-religious sources.*
- personal beliefs and values
- what is means to be British and what is meant by 'British Values'

The collective worship that we deliver will recognise and value the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our school population and will be conducted within our Equal Opportunities policy.

We believe that collective worship will enrich the experiences of pupils by:

- enabling them to reflect on and question issues such as belonging to the school community, the wider community, Great Britain and to humanity as a whole;
- reinforcing a sense of community and cohesion through appreciating those things we have in common;
- developing a reflective approach to life;
- supporting pupils in the development of spiritual, cultural and moral perspectives;
- developing a sense of the individual's place in the world beyond the physical, material and the here and now;
- providing time to consider values and beliefs - both their own and those of others;
- raising awareness of difficulties experienced living a life based on values, beliefs and principles which may not be shared by everyone in the wider community;
- providing opportunities to celebrate achievement and to share times of celebration;
- supporting students in responding to crisis at a personal and collective level and provide them with a vocabulary to explore feelings and responses;
- supporting those who have particular needs or who are engaged in times of crisis.
- celebrating your own achievement and the achievements of others

Collective worship reinforces the school community, by giving pupils the opportunity to share things of worth with each other, within a reflective space.

Those pupils who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider issues in the light of their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate whilst those pupils who don't have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal, internal response to the same stimulus. They will also be able to enter into dialogue with those of faith, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each other's stances.

The language of invitation to reflect will be open and inclusive, ensuring that no pupil or adult present feels their beliefs have been compromised and ensuring that they are able to participate and grow spiritually.

Content
At Holbeach Primary School collective worship may take the following forms:

- marking the celebration of a broad range of religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community;
- examples of lives of people of faith and other good human beings;
- stories supporting themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular books;
- response to key local, national and international events;
- providing an opportunity to think about their own beliefs whether religious or otherwise;
- consideration of questions you wouldn't think about elsewhere – not necessarily with easy / definitive answers;
- putting things into practice – e.g., supporting charities;
- providing a moment for silent reflection / prayer;
- celebration of successes of members of the school community;
- performances or presentations from members of the school community;
- input from visiting speakers / experts.
- considering the term British Values and learning about each one

Organisation
Our Collective Worship is organised as follows:

Monday: Whole School Assembly – taken by Headteacher (not Foundation Stage Classes)
Tuesday: Music Assembly – led by the school's Music Teacher
Wednesday: Key Stage Assembly – A timetable of teaching staff is kept in the staffroom.
Thursday: Phase Leader Assembly (In Phases) or Class Assembly
Friday: Whole School Celebration Assembly – taken by the Deputy Headteacher

The **Monday** whole school assembly is linked to a half-termly theme decided by the Headteacher and Senior Leaders. These may be linked to the 'SEAL' themes, British Values or Characteristic of Learning (e.g. determination, resilience).The Headteacher has a yearly schedule for these themes, but uses their discretion to alter the content of assemblies if pertinent issues arise relating to school directly, the local community or wider world context.

Tuesday Music Assemblies are held in Key Stages with the Foundation Stage also having their own assembly. The songs rehearsed are age appropriate and progress in difficulty through the age groups.

Wednesday Assemblies follow the theme set on a Monday Assembly or occasionally have a half-term theme of their own (e.g. Maths).

Throughout the year each class is responsible for producing a **Thursday** Class Assembly. These are performed twice, once at 10:15am for Key Stage 1 children and for the parents of the class performing and then a second performance at 10:45am for Key Stage 2 children. In the Summer Term the Foundation Stage children will begin to join the Key Stage 1 assembly.

Friday Celebration Assembly offers an opportunity to review weekly learning and celebrate success, whilst also reinforcing values and ethos linked to school life.

Staff/Pupils who have requested for the right of withdrawal from collective worship will reflect privately in their own room.

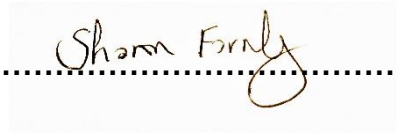
Resources
Books and posters to help plan assemblies are kept by the Headteacher in their office and also in the staffroom/PPA room. Religious artefacts are kept in the general RE resource area in the resources room. Music CDs are kept in a labelled drawer system near the music system in the hall. Resources for assemblies have a separate budget coordinated by the Headteacher.

Visitors who are invited to lead assemblies liaise initially with the Subject Leader and Headteacher about the content they intend to cover.

Planning and Monitoring
The Headteacher has overall responsibility for planning and monitoring Collective Worship at Holbeach Primary School to ensure it is of good quality and follows the Law. Individual class teachers have the responsibility for planning and delivering class assemblies on a Thursday. All monitoring is undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team and may take the form of visiting individual class assemblies or other Collective Worship times which are being led by other people.

Religious Education Policy (including Collective Worship)

Chair of Governors: *Sharon Farnley* **(please print name)**

Signed:  .....

Headteacher: *Tom Bulpitt* **(please print name)**

Signed:  .....

Date of Policy: September 2026

Date of Review: September 2028