Collective Worship Policy

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Review Date	**October 2027**

An academy within:

"Learning together, to be the best we can be"

1. Statement of intent

1.1. All pupils at Bents Green School are required to take part in daily collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

1.2. Bents Green School, the daily act of worship is considered an integral and important part of school life. In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the daily collective worship shall be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character"[1], though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

1.3. All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is provided daily during tutor time, and is a time for reflecting on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

Legal framework

1.4. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1.5. This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

Government guidance (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

Policy aims

1.6. Collective worship at Bents Green School aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.

- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship. Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

2. Definition of collective worship

2.1. For the purpose of this policy, **"collective worship"** is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos.

2.2. To **"take part"** in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

3. Organisation and planning

3.1. The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing body.

3.2. The act of worship will be held, planned and implemented by class teachers at an appropriate time for students to engage.

3.3. Assembly's held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher and governing body.

3.4. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

3.5. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.

3.6. Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's Guest Speakers Policy during their visit.

4. Weekly collective worship programme

4.1. The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils.

4.2. The current schedule is outlined below:

- Tutor time daily
- Termly assembly based on school values
- Termly drop-down days that may incorporate collective worship

5. Implementation

5.1. The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

6. Right to withdraw

6.1. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

6.2. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.

- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

6.3. Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

6.4. The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

7. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

7.1. The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.

8. Monitoring and review

8.1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher in agreement with the governing body.

8.2. This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

8.3. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

8.4. This policy is reviewed annually by the Policy Review Board.

Appendix A

Useful websites

RE Online – Festival Calendar
Festival Calendar - RE:ONLINE (reonline.org.uk)

NATRE – National Association of Teachers for RE
National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (natre.org.uk)

RE Today
RE Today supporting Religious Education in schools

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE):

Rotherham - Committee details - Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) - Rotherham Council

Sheffield - SACRE | Christians and Sheffield Schools (cass-su.org.uk)

Doncaster - Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) - City of Doncaster Council

Nottinghamshire - Nottinghamshire standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE) | Nottinghamshire County Council

Department for education - RE and collective worship in academies and free schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Big Ideas for RE - Big Ideas for RE - Free Religious Education Curriculum for schools