



# Collective Worship Policy

## **MISSION**

Eversfield offers an outstanding, broad education within a safe, caring, happy, family atmosphere where the talents of every child are valued and nurtured. We achieve excellent results in a school where the Christian principles of mutual care, respect and encouragement underpin everything that we do.

## **AIMS**

- To promote high moral standards through clear and relevant Christian teaching.
- To provide a wide breadth of experiences and opportunities for all our pupils to discover and develop their individual talents.
- To support our pupils in becoming valued members of society so that they may develop self-confidence, ask questions, seek new experiences, not be afraid to make mistakes, express themselves confidently and modestly and develop team and leadership skills.
- To provide a safe, supportive, healthy educational environment, with buildings, facilities and staff that enable our pupils to learn and develop.
- To ensure that our pupils receive excellent pastoral care.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Eversfield Preparatory School is a Christian school that promotes high moral standards and responsibilities based on clear and relevant Christian Teaching.

## **AIMS OF THE POLCY**

The aim and purpose of collective worship is to provide pupils the opportunity to:

- Worship God.
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Celebrate achievement.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Respond to the worship offered.
- Reinforce positive values.
- Provide an opportunity for calm reflection.

## **EVERSFIELD FOUNDATION DUTY**

At Eversfield, we aim to provide daily opportunities for the children to worship God together, be it as a whole school, or within each class or year group. In line with our Christian foundations we believe collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a Christian character. We base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church.



## **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, a key stage, or a whole school and participating in an act of worship. Staff are expected to attend assemblies and share in acts of worship. All children are expected to take part.

All assemblies/acts of worship are conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school, whatever their denomination.

At Eversfield, we will also hold assemblies that reflect on other religious traditions that are represented in the school and wider community. We welcome parents and representatives from other faiths, who are able to share their beliefs and values with us.

## **ORGANISATION**

Acts of worship may take the form of an assembly, or class gathering. It may include music, song, stories, shared experiences, readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection.

Assemblies are conducted as a whole school once a week, led by the Headmaster or Deputy Head. All children are aware that this is a time for calm reflection. Children are expected to behave in an appropriate and respectful manner. Music is normally used as the children enter and leave assembly to act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Middle School and Upper School children have their own separate assembly during the week, which follows a similar format to the whole school assembly. In addition, they have a weekly hymn practice, which is followed by a short period of reflection and prayer led by a member of staff.

Lower, Middle and Upper School children have a time with their form/class at the end of each day which includes a time for reflection and prayer.

In addition to the above mentioned acts, Grace is said before each lunch and tea.

The themes of our assemblies are taken from the traditions of the Christian faith and modern moral issues. We often reflect on the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Outside speakers will be invited to address the children and lead our assemblies, when appropriate.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Children are encouraged to participate in assemblies, share their success and celebrate their achievements, both in and outside school. They play an important part in promoting the values of the school where the individual skills and talents of children are encouraged and recognised.

Within the school year, children are expected to attend three church services (to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and, at the end of the school year, Thanksgiving for the life and work of the school) and participate fully in them. These services include bible readings, reflective poems/non religious readings, hymns, anthems and prayers.

Parents and friends are invited to special assemblies/services that take place throughout the school year.

Governors' are welcome to attend assemblies and church services at any time.



## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT**

We are committed to the principle of equal opportunity for all pupils irrespective of race, religion, gender, language, disability or family background, and to the active support of initiatives designed to further this principle.

We believe that equal opportunity is at the heart of good educational practice. All pupils are of equal value and deserve equal access to every aspect of school life. They have an equal opportunity to learn and work towards their highest possible levels of achievement. The 'Vision and Values' which we uphold as a school help to emphasize equal opportunities for all staff and pupils at all times. All personnel are responsible for ensuring that we implement this policy.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This Policy is monitored by the Governing Body and will be reviewed every three years.

*R A Yates, Headmaster, November 2024*