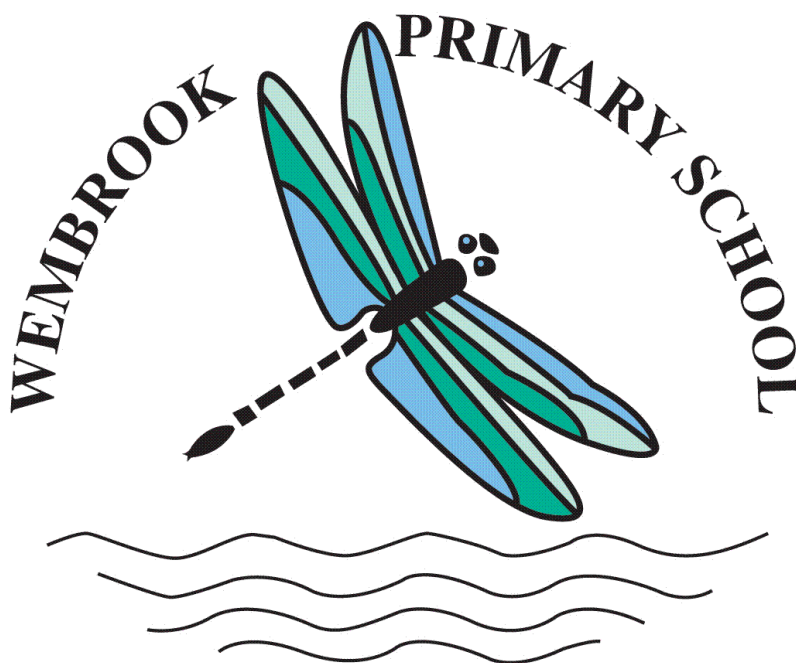


# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP Policy



Signed:

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

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## **1 Aims and purpose**

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship at Wembrook are to:-
- provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
  - enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
  - enable children to explore their own beliefs;
  - encourage reflection and response;
  - develop in children a sense of community spirit;
  - promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
  - provide the opportunity for children to participate actively in leading an assembly at least once each academic year.

## **2 Collective worship**

- 2.1 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.2 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **3 Organization of collective worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which may be a whole-school assembly, or there may be different assemblies for different age groups.

- 3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.3 Members of the leadership team or volunteer teachers normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy, church youth workers or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the religious calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum or developing children's values and morals.
- 3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by sharing their success with other children. Special Mentions and certificates are given out in assemblies, which also offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an

important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Wembrook Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

**3.6** Each class leads assembly once a year. We invite parents to assembly and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

**3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

#### **4 Right of withdrawal**

**4.1** We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

**4.2** A record is kept in the office of all children who withdraw from collective worship.