



## Swanage Primary School

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Reviewed: Oct 2025  
Next Review: Oct 2028

**In reviewing this policy and making decisions regarding collective worship due consideration has been given to equality legislation.**

The 1988 Education Act states that all students in attendance at a maintained school, up to the age of eighteen, unless excused the right at the request of their parents/carers, shall take part in an act of collective worship of a broadly Christian nature.

#### **Policy, Rationale and Aims**

Swanage Primary school aims to 'promote the spiritual development of pupils and provide a daily act of collective worship'. Swanage Primary is committed to the view that all students should be treated with dignity and respect.

#### **We aim to:**

- Develop a culture which values everybody, providing the opportunity for all students to learn and express themselves in an environment free of prejudice.
- To help pupils to develop their self-esteem and confidence.
- Provide an appropriate learning experience for all students, regardless of ethnicity, origin, culture, gender, religion, sexual orientation or ability.
- Encourage students to be open to new ideas.
- Maintain diversity amongst students.
- Ensure that all staff educate against any form of prejudice or negative stereotyping.

**We will provide** a caring and supportive environment to all of our children and students so that they can:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Learn about different faiths

#### **Delivery**

Our Collective Act of Worship is delivered regularly through assemblies which are planned as part of the whole programme to promote and develop Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) education across a variety of faiths and through our Rights Respecting themes. Swanage Primary will invite speakers from

different faith communities and organisations to deliver the Collective Act of Worship and enhance the experience for our children/students.

- Whole school assemblies, in which all pupils contribute, are held to celebrate key Christian and other religious events such as Harvest Festival.
- There is a weekly timetable for assemblies. These are used to encourage reflection during this time.
- Celebration assemblies are held every week and we invite parents of children who have been recognised as 'stars of the week' to attend. The purpose of this celebration is to provide an opportunity to recognise success and achievements by pupils both within and outside of the school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements acknowledged.
- We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent/carer 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.
- Staff also have the right to withdraw from religious worship.
- Students/children and staff are encouraged to get involved in various charitable events through the academic year.
- We will utilise opportunities to embrace and support our local community by visiting local churches for key events such as Harvest festival and Christmas carol concerts.