**STONY DEAN SCHOOL**

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

**DATE: September 2016**

**REVIEW: September 2018**

**STONY DEAN SCHOOL**

**‘Working to Inspire’**

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Member of staff responsible: Headteacher

**PRINCIPLES**

Stony Dean School believes that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections.

It is legal requirements that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Families who send their children to this school are in the main ‘nominally’ Christian, but we do have some children from practising Christian families. In addition there are children who are from religions other than Christianity and some from non-religious backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. The faith background of both the staff and the child’s family is respected at all times.

**AIMS**

Through our collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to:

* Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
* Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and beliefs
* 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
* Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person’s life stance, whether it be religious or not

‘**WORKING TO INSPIRE’**

**A SCHOOL COMMUNITY WHERE WE:**

* treat each other with care, consideration and good manners
* recognise and value the differences amongst us
* welcome visitors and those who are new to the school community
* take responsibility for our work and our actions
* work positively with each other
* represent our school community in a positive way
* reflect on the effect we can have on the lives of others
* “go the extra mile” and make a difference!

**PRACTICE**

At Stony Dean School we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework.

There is one whole school assembly each week for every pupil in Years 7-13. The headteacher or another senior leader leads the whole school assembly each week, a rota of other staff lead the Key Stage assemblies each week (KS4 and Post 16 Tuesday, KS3 Wednesday, Year Assemblies on Thursdays).

The school year has been divided into weekly themes. These themes are related to the Rights Respecting Schools Award and the UNICEF Charter. They also take account of religious festivals, known national or international events, as well as aspects taken from the school calendar. Staff leading assemblies then plan around the theme. Tutorial lessons form part of the whole process and are also planned with the themes in mind, time for quiet reflection and informed debate are important elements for these sessions. Curriculum groups use the themes in planning to enhance and broaden experience in lessons.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

* The Headteacher is responsible (under the terms of the Academy funding agreement) for arranging collective worship after consulting with the governing body.
* The SMSC lead is responsible for planning the calendar of themes.
* The SMSC Leader is responsible for planning the staff rota for Key Stage worship.
* Tutors are responsible for organising a short period for reflection appropriate to their tutor group and the theme during tutorials.
* The Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum and Learning) and the Heads of Year are responsible for monitoring the content and effectiveness of these sessions.
* All staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Headteacher.
* Parents/carers of a pupil have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent/carer asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school, we comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Headteacher.

The Education and Inspection Act 2006 and the Academy Funding Agreement makes provision for pupils in post-16 education to exercise the right to withdraw themselves from the daily act of collective worship, but not from assembly.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that parents are reminded on an annual basis of the content of this policy via the presentation of this policy on the school website

**DISSEMINATION**

This policy is shared with all staff. Parents are advised of the policy on an annual basis via the school website

**MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The Curriculum Sub-Committee review this policy on an annual basis.