

## **PARK SCHOOL - COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

### **1. AIMS AND PURPOSE**

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to understand the significance of religious reflection across the major faiths;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

1.2 Through weekly collective worship, we aim to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of our pupils, helping them develop respect, empathy, and understanding of others' beliefs while exploring their own values.

### **2. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

2.1 We understand collective worship to be a special act or occasion for reflection, contemplation, and spiritual development. It provides an opportunity to consider moral values, beliefs, and the wider world.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and 'Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Culture Development of Pupils (2013)' which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. Assemblies may include music, reflection, stories, prayers, or readings, chosen in a way that respects the beliefs of all pupils.

2.3 While the majority of assemblies draw on Christian traditions, we ensure that the content is inclusive and respectful of pupils of all faiths or none. Assemblies explore universal values such as kindness, respect, and responsibility

### **3. ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

3.1 We hold an act of collective worship in the form of a whole school assembly twice a week.

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 manner. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and respect the prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

3.3 The Headteacher and staff often conduct whole-school assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

3.4 We take some themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place. Themes are chosen to develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural understanding, and to provide opportunities for all pupils to participate and express their thoughts and reflections

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have

discussed in their classes. Pupils may also share personal reflections, achievements, or examples of moral decision-making, fostering a sense of responsibility and community. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Park School is a successful school, and we will celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

- 3.6 We invite parents to regular class assemblies, 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 schoolwork together to support the achievements of our children.

#### **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. Children who are withdrawn from collective worship are supervised in another suitable area and may engage in activities that promote reflection, ethical understanding, or SMSC development, ensuring their continued personal development
- 4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

#### **5. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- 5.1 The Headteacher monitors the policy and practice of collective worship on a regular basis, at least annually. This includes observing assemblies, reviewing themes, and seeking feedback from staff and pupils to ensure that collective worship contributes effectively to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development