



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Document Status	
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Date of origin	MARCH 2018
Version	Draft3
Review requirements	Every 3 years
Date of next review	MARCH 2027
Approval Body	SLT
Publication	School Website/ Staff Handbook

This policy and procedure is subject to The Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following categories of individual as Protected Characteristics: Age, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex (gender), Sexual orientation and Disability.

## **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Education Reform Act 1988 states that school-age children must be provided with daily worship which is “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character”. We expect all the children to attend the worship. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on religious grounds, and this right extends to collective worship. The school will make alternative arrangement for the supervision of the child during Religious Education and collective worship. The right to withdraw does not extend to other areas of the curriculum that may teach about religion, for example music lessons which include the singing of religious songs, or geography lessons which detail religious practices of other cultures and countries. The school will review any request to withdraw a child from Religious Education on an annual basis.

## **VISION**

We believe that all our pupils’ faiths, beliefs and cultures should be explored and respected. We conduct worship in a manner that values individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school. Collective Worship is statutory and contributes to the moral, spiritual, cultural and social development of each child. It gives rise to a range of experiences and attitudes. Collective worship is an opportunity for pupils to gather to express the school’s Vision, Values and Code of Conduct. In turn, this should help children understand them, as they try to make sense of the world they experience. Collective Worship should be a worthwhile, educational activity that adds something of value to the life of the school.

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. The main Christian festivals are celebrated in recognition of our broadly Christian pupil base, and special days from other faiths are also acknowledged. Worship is inclusive by basing our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths, such as Values Education. Stories may be told about the life of religious figures, but pupils will not be required to address them in prayer.

## **AIMS**

### **For the School:**

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Greenleas School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievements and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

### **For Pupils:**

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils by providing opportunities to:

- Learn about God through the exploration of religious festivals of different faiths
- Reflect on values of a broadly Christian nature
- Respect the feelings and beliefs of other people including those of other faiths and cultures.
- Reflect, explore and develop their own spiritual awareness.
- Promote an awareness of awe, wonder and mystery and an awareness of their own relationship within the natural world.

- Give an opportunity to celebrate achievements and joy as well as remember sadness and suffering.
- Be aware of the community, its rituals and celebrations.
- Emphasis the ethos and aims and values of the school.
- Respect that collective worship is a special time of the day.
- To reinforce and complement the RE programme, where possible and to make appropriate links with other areas of curriculum.

### **GUIDELINES**

- Collective worship is practised daily, at whole school, year group or class level.
- It is inclusive and acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils.
- All children attend the daily act of worship unless withdrawn by parental request.
- Children experience stories, celebrations, festivals and spirituality.
- There are three whole school assemblies per week which feature Values, Worship through Song, and Celebrations.
- There is one year group assembly per week which follows the Values/PSHE curriculum.
- There is one class assembly per week which is a focus on spirituality/mindfulness.
- Achievements of children are celebrated by the whole school.
- There are opportunities for parents, governors and other stakeholders to attend assemblies on a regular basis and particularly on special occasions.

### **SONG/MUSIC**

Song/Music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of faith-based and values-based music from which we draw which we use in conjunction with more traditional Christian material, and music specific to festivals from other faiths.