

# Collective Worship Policy

## Newfield Primary School



**Approved by:** Narinder Nathan **Date:** 22/02/24

**Last reviewed on:** February 2024

**Next review due by:** February 2025

## **The aims of our collective worship policy:**

- To share our school values and vision.
- To impart spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.
- To recognise and reflect the multi-faith nature of our school and our community and to encourage recognition and respect for the belief of others.
- To foster a sense of community spirit, ethos and shared values.
- To provide time for spiritual reflection and response.
- To celebrate achievement and special times.
- To reinforce positive attitudes.

## **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school or groups within school come together in order to reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to reflect through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences which promote their development on a broader, 'holistic' level. It is a legal requirement that schools have a daily collective activity which emphasises common values, principles and aspirations.

## **Statutory duty of the School**

All pupils (apart from those withdrawn by parents) will take part in a daily act of collective worship through whole school assemblies.

Newfield Primary School was granted a determination by the local SACRE as it was deemed inappropriate for the pupils to experience worship that is "wholly or mainly of a Christian character."

In order to reflect the diversity of our school and wider community we adopt Brent Council's recommended approach by applying to SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) for a 'determination'. This allows us to follow a model of practice which reflects our families more broadly as opposed to following the requirements of The Education Act 1996, whereby collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. In consultation with our Governing Body, parents and pupils we have applied for and continued for renewal of our determination every five years since its introduction.

## **Implementation**

At Newfield Primary School, collective worship is embedded into assemblies or feature in other aspects of the curriculum which promote thinking and reflection time, such as Circle Time, PSHE sessions and RE sessions. To ensure collective worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, it will be addressed through a variety of themes and topics, use of diverse stimuli and resources, and provide time for children to 'respond' on their level.

- We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, lasting approximately 15-20 minutes. This takes the form of either a whole-school assembly (four times a week) or a class session - either delivered as a circle time or following the My Happy Mind programme.
- Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. We remind pupils that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. It is regarded as a special time and expect the pupils to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet, thoughtful and to listen carefully to the speakers and the messages provided. Pupils are encouraged to participate fully and appropriately.

- The Head Teacher, a member of the Leadership Team or a teacher will lead whole school assemblies.
- All class teachers will lead and deliver a whole school assembly with their pupils at least twice a year.
- Themes for assemblies include the following: achievement assemblies, celebration of key religious festivals, promoting or raising awareness of national or international themes and events, sharing stories and showcasing of curriculum learning.
- On certain occasions, outside speakers will be invited to lead a whole school or year group assembly.
- Time for silent worship and/or reflection will be included in assemblies.
- Parents and governors are invited to attend class assemblies as well as special assemblies, such as end of term celebrations.

### **Right to Withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend our assemblies. However, parents can request permission have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. In the first instance, discussion with the Headteacher needs to take place so the parent can give reasons for the request. Requests of this nature are very rare within the school. We hope this reflects the confidence shown by parents in our delivery of the RE curriculum and collective worship.

### **Monitoring, evaluating and review**

The school will evaluate this policy annually and assess its implementation through verbal and written feedback from both staff and pupils.