



*#AimHighSucceedBeHappy*

# **Collective Worship Policy**

**September 2023**



## Rationale

This policy aims to ensure that West Meadows Primary School meets the statutory requirements for Collective Worship and ensures that there are daily opportunities for children to be together, experience moments of awe and wonder, share concepts through knowing about other cultures and compare with their own religious feelings or experiences.

‘Collective Worship should offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence; consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives; think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community and appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them. Collective worship also offers an opportunity to re-affirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school. It provides a time to celebrate the achievements of all members of our school community that are held to be of worth.’

### **National Curriculum Council of Spiritual and Moral Development Mission Statement**

We consider that our acts of collective worship are an important part of our day. These provide valuable opportunities for us all to reflect upon a variety of spiritual, moral, social and cultural experiences.

We embrace collective worship times because it allows us to come together as a school community to share thoughts, develop a common ethos and reflect on the world around us as well as reflect on otherness and greatness.

Our school community thinks that it is important to recognise achievements to celebrate success. We believe that truth, honesty, fairness and integrity are central to a fulfilled life and value the importance of reflecting on incidents, events and individuals that personify these virtues.

We understand that though we should strive to create a better future, we are also rooted in the past, reflecting this through celebrating and commemorating key festivals, anniversaries, as well as, religious and cultural diversity.

Fundamentally, we value the importance of developing the ‘inner’ as well as the ‘outer’ life of our children.

'The purpose of collective worship is to foster the spiritual growth of both the individual and community. A school's collective worship allows participants, in an inclusive manner, to encounter and reflect upon a variety of important and widely held values, attitudes and beliefs.

### **The Statutory Duty of Schools for Collective Worship:**

The Butler 1944 Education Act formalised the requirement for every school to have a daily act of collective worship. Further to these guidelines in accordance by law as stated by The Education Reform Act 1988 and more recent papers by the Department for Education Circular 1/94 (1994) requires that at West Meadows Primary School we:

- are legally required to have a daily act of collective worship that is mainly or broadly Christian in nature
- can provide collective worship in appropriate groupings within the school (i.e. the whole school does not have to meet together)
- can provide collective worship at any suitable time of the school day
- can hold collective worship in any place within our school building or grounds

### **Our Principles of Collective Worship**

As suggested by SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) at West Meadows Primary School we consider Collective Worship to:

- Provide opportunities for children, if they wish, to worship their God through responding to the opportunity offered.
- Stimulate children's thinking onto another plain or dimension.
- Provide opportunities to reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature.
- Enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs about otherness and greatness.
- Develop and promote a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Reflect spiritual and moral issues through reinforcing positive attitudes
- Foster a sense of enquiry and interest in a range of religious, spiritual, moral, social, cultural and wider life issues that link to identified key concepts.

- Provide opportunities to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Reflect a mainly Christian nature that provides experiences from a multi-cultural (secular) and multi-faith (religious) stance, exploring key religious and cultural festivals, religious key events and anniversaries.
- Celebrate successes and promote talent.
- Provide the opportunity for us to recognise and remember our school values:

We are kind  
 We show respect  
 We have high aspirations  
 We are proud  
 We are happy  
 We are family

### Implementation

Our Collective Worships will:

- Be acceptable to the whole school community, children, staff, parents and governors.
- Have a common structure throughout the school and will include elements such as music, poetry and songs as well as visual stimuli.
- Include times for prayer, reflection, contemplation and quiet times.
- Involve the children, whether on a spiritual, reflective or physical level.
- Be well planned for, evaluated and reflected upon to inform future collective worships.
- Provide opportunities to explore our school values and how we can live up to these in our daily actions and choices.

### Resources

We use a variety of resources in school, including books, posters, artefacts, music, art work, stimulus from nature and current news from Picture News weekly resources.

### Arrangements for Withdrawal

All parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of collective worship, however, as with RE, we at West Meadows believe that every child has a right to reflect on their own personal experiences and viewpoints, whilst exploring and reflecting on the lives of others.

### Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Responsibility for the oversight of Collective Worship rests with the governors in consultation with the headteacher. Foundation governors have a particular responsibility to ensure that the character or foundation of the school is reflected in Collective Worship.

The Collective Worship Governor will be invited to attend Collective worship at least once a year as part of our planned monitoring.

The Collective Worship Council, made up of children elected across school, will offer evaluation on Collective Worship to help us to continually improve and meet the needs of our school community.

In the event of any concerns regarding this policy please contact the headteacher and or Collective Worship Governor whose contact details can be found on the school website.

The school will review this policy once every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.