

# Wimbledon Chase Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

Our policy for Collective Worship contributes to our school Mission Statement.

### SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

WIMBLEDON CHASE PRIMARY SCHOOL IS AN INNOVATIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE.

### Mission Statement:

We will endeavour to do this by:

- Constantly striving to find better ways of pursuing our goals.
- Providing a happy, supportive and safe environment in which everyone can achieve their full potential.
- Being truly inclusive and giving each child the opportunity to develop talents.
- Encouraging everyone to become creative, motivated and life-long learners prepared for an ever changing, global community.
- Valuing and respecting every member of the school community.
- Recognising and celebrating success.

### PURPOSES AND AIMS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT WIMBLEDON CHASE

It will:-

1. Provide children with an opportunity to worship God, to explore their beliefs and to reflect on spiritual and moral issues relevant to their lives within and outside school
2. Encourage pupils to develop an awareness of the universal moral principles of right and wrong, justice and fairness, and a proper concern for the fate of others and the world
3. Develop a community spirit and promote the common ethos and shared values of the school
4. Create a sense of gathering for a special purpose
5. Offer an opportunity to share an experience which promotes thought and reflection
6. Promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
7. Promote pupils' understanding and respect for each other, and respect and understanding of various beliefs and faiths
8. Promote pupils' understanding of and thinking of the wider community and their participation and contribution to it. Celebrate diversity and commonality, valuing each other and affirming individual, group, class and whole school achievements
9. Help pupils to consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response
10. Help pupils to reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background. This may include worship of God within a participant's own faith and understanding.

### GUIDANCE FROM SACRE

- Collective Worship must be provided daily for all pupils – separate arrangements may be made for nursery and special schools!
- It may take place at any time during the day
- Different groups of children may come together for Collective Worship (e.g. whole school, key stage, year groups, classes)
- The content of the majority of acts of Collective Worship in a term will be 'wholly or mainly' of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief
- Content should have regard for the family backgrounds of pupils
- Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship following discussion with the Head Teacher
- Teachers can withdraw from Collective Worship following discussion with the Head Teacher

## **SACRE SUGGESTS THAT COLLECTIVE WORSHIP:**

- Can mean incorporating elements that Christians might recognise from their worship e.g. songs, music, stories, learning from the good example of others, readings from holy books
- Does not mean making a pretence of Christian worship
- Does mean promoting values that Christians believe to be important, these may be and often are, values held to be important by other faiths as well
- Does not need to contain any elements of Christian ritual or liturgy
- Must not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination

Therefore at Wimbledon Chase, Collective Worship will reflect and take note of considerations of our school community, family backgrounds, age and aptitude of the children when determining the content and character of worship. It will follow the aims and purposes as set out below:

- The themes for collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character and relevant and meaningful to the ages and aptitudes of the pupils whilst also reflecting the other faiths and beliefs of staff and pupils.
- It should be recognised that collective worship is different from “corporate” worship (i.e. all present having the same beliefs)
- Collective worship must be distinguished from an assembly e.g. notices, information giving, etc.
- Classrooms, year groups and whole school assemblies can provide an equally suitable context for collective worship.
- It is important that an opportunity is provided for quiet reflection.
- The stimulus for collective worship can be:
  - a story/poem/thought for the day read by a teacher or pupil
  - a picture or piece of music, song or hymn
  - a class assembly or presentation
  - a celebration e.g. pupil’s achievement, festivals, etc.
  - a visiting speaker
  - a current news item
- Themes for collective worship should be left for teachers to choose but may be selected from the list of attached broad themes.
- It is suggested that prayer, if used, should be presented as voluntary and inviting children to participate, rather than assuming a commitment to prayer.
- Records should be kept of collective worship.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship after consultation with the Headteacher.

**January 2015**