

Park End Primary School



Approved By: _____
Date: _____

Date: _____

Collective Worship Policy

April 2021

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Review Date	Type of Review	Comments	Initials
March 22		New policy	KR/RL

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1. Introduction

1.1 The person(s) responsible for this policy are the RE subject leaders.

1.2 This policy is a statement of aims, principles and effective strategies for collective worship at Park End Primary School.

1.3 This policy will be reviewed regularly in line with the schedule set out for review of all policy documents.

2. Definition of collective worship

2.1 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. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

3. Values and Aims

3.1. We believe at Park End Primary School that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our ethos and the values we place on the development of the whole child; Respect, Responsibility, Positivity, Honesty, Hard work and Caring is reflected in our collective worship.

3.2. This time of day give pupils time to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

3.3 Collective worship can both reinforce and contribute to the ethos of the school, in addition to offering a unique occasion in the school day to pause and explore life beyond the prescribed curriculum. It encourages staff and pupils to challenge assumptions and reflect upon issues which transcend normal day to day experiences, thus broadening understanding and contributing to our search for meaning in life. By enabling pupils to acknowledge the value of diversity in terms of race, gender, culture and differing abilities, it fosters inclusion and breeds tolerance. Furthermore, whilst allowing those with religious commitment to enter into worship, those who have no such commitment are offered an opportunity to sense what worship can mean.

4. Statutory Duty of school

4.1 All maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually within an assembly or at the end of a school day.

4.2 The Head Teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broad Christian nature.

4.3 It is a legal requirement to have collective worship in schools. This is set out in the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 that states, "each pupil in attendance at a community, foundation or voluntary school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship".

4.4. In community schools, the Act states that the worship must be wholly or mainly of a Christian character. The act of worship must take place on school premises but exceptionally, on the agreement of the head teacher, it can take place elsewhere.

5. Implementation

5.1 Collective worship can be organised in many different ways, whether this is whole school, phase, year groups or in classes.

5.2 Worship may include, but will not be exclusive to;

- Spoken words – story, poetry, readings etc
- Singing – hymns, folk songs, pop songs etc
- Music – listening to music and reflecting
- Visual – pictures, artefacts
- Performance – dance, drama, role play etc
- Silence – ‘stilling’, reflection, contemplation, private prayer

5.3 Collective worship must be wholly or mainly Christian in nature. ‘Wholly or mainly Christian’ in this sense would mean that schools should explore themes such as Creation, Fall, Salvation, Justification, Redemption, Sanctification and Faith, Hope and Love in terms that are age and development appropriate and ideally linked to the pattern of the Christian year. But it also means that worship should not be identified with a particular Christian tradition and include the breadth of denominational life found in Park End.

5 Withdrawal

6.1 We respect the right of parents to request the withdrawal of their children from acts of worship. Parents should speak to the Head Teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team if they wish to withdraw their child from collective worship.

6.2 Staff may, on the grounds of their religious opinions or practices, withdraw from acts of worship. Any member of staff wishing to exercise this right should consult with the Head Teacher.