



## SUNDON PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL

### **Collective Worship Policy**

#### **Definition of Collective Worship**

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

#### **1 Aims and objectives**

**1.1** At Sundon Park we have pupils from various faith backgrounds. During our school assembly the act of collective worship is a time we come together to share common values and experiences.

**1.2** The act of collective worship aims to:

- 1) Contribute to the development of the whole person
- 2) Foster and sense of community
- 3) Create an experience which promotes thought and reflection
- 4) Be appropriate to the pupils' needs and interests and encourage their participation
- 5) Respect the dignity and integrity of pupils and staff

**1.3** The act of collective worship can be distinguished from the everyday activity of school.

#### **2 The Nature of Collective Worship**

**2.1** The acts of collective worship are planned on a theme basis which can last for a Relatively short period of time (e.g. 2 weeks) to a longer period (5 weeks). The length of time spent on a theme will depend upon the overall nature of the theme, how well it can be developed and how well it will sustain children's interest.

**2.2** The acts of collective worship are broadly spiritual in nature in which fundamental beliefs and values are meditated on and celebrated. They are planned to take into account the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils present.

**2.3** Themes might reflect:

- Cross religious topics, e.g. honesty, forgiveness, God's love, trust, friendship
- Topics to highlight and address issues within school, e.g. working together, caring for each other, caring for property, bullying
- Seasonal topics – Beginning of school year, New Year, Winter
- Religious festivals – Christmas, Eid, Chinese New Year, Winter
- Topics in line with the school's P.S.H.E SEAL programme.

Within the framework of collective worship the topics chosen are planned so that they can apply equally to all those present, regardless of faith or belief and can join in the act of worship with integrity.

**2.4** At various times within the school year a particular festival might form the focus of an act of worship or a series of acts of worship, e.g. Christmas, Eid, Easter. In this case some of those present might participate fully as Christians or Muslims whilst others will observe, in order to understand better and appreciate the beliefs of other faith traditions.

**2.5** Within the school year “special assemblies” are prepared by the pupils and parents are invited to join the celebration.

**2.6** The act of worship should maintain a balance between music, conversation, activity, silence and the opportunity for reflection. A variety of activities and presentation, in some of which pupils may participate and share, will lead to ideas being stimulated.

**2.7** Within each act of worship there should be an opportunity for thought, silence and reflection. Children should be invited to join in the prayer (making it clear that all are free to join in or not as they wish).

### **3 Organisation**

**3.1** Collective worship takes place every day with all pupils in the school attending at the same time.

**3.2** Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or some of the acts of worship.

### **4 Resources**

**4.1** A variety of resources are used to help plan and deliver the acts of worship. The resources available provide a variety of activities – pupil participation, stories, plays, poetry, use of the OHP, use of artefacts.

**4.2** Visitors from the community who come into school to lead collective worship are made aware of the school’s policy and practice and the need to ensure that their presentation is accessible to all pupils regardless of religious faith.

February 2012