



# Woodheys Primary School

*'Together Everyone Achieves More'*



This document is a statement of the aims and purposes of Collective Worship at Woodheys Primary School. It was revised during the Spring Term 2017.

To be reviewed Autumn 2019.



## Collective Worship Policy

### What is Collective Worship?

Collective worship involves members of a school meeting together in part or whole and participating in a joint assembly. It is distinct from the rest of the school day and a time for reflection.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the traditions of the Christian church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. Assemblies can follow a 'thought for the day' and While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community. Our assemblies support our aim to create 'Global Citizens of the Future'.

### Our Assemblies reflect British values:

#### The Golden Rule

'Treat others as you would wish them to treat you'

'The children are our future, teach them well and they will lead the way'

### Aims and Purposes

The aims and purposes of collective worship at Woodheys are:

- To provide an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of others
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues with time for reflection
- To enable the children to explore their own beliefs and universal values

- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in the children a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- Opportunity to respect each individual's personal choice
- To teach the children how to worship and purpose
- To produce Global Citizens of the future

### Organisation of Collective Worship

Where possible we hold different forms of collective worship in our school.

- a whole school assembly
- a separate Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Assembly
- a collective act of worship within the classroom (Candle/Circle Time/Time for reflection)
- Lunchtime prayer
- Children learn that different faiths hold their hands in different ways
- Children are not made to say the words of prayers but must bow their heads respectfully

We tell the children that assembly is a special time, it is a period of calm reflection and we expect them to behave in an respectful and appropriate way. The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies. Local clergy (Rev. Richard from the Avenue Methodist Church) and other representatives of other religious groups such as Mrs Angel: Judaism, Mr Aswan: Islam and Mr Roop Singh: Sikhism occasionally take an assembly. Other visitors and guest speakers include:

Humanism/Quakers/Baha'is

- Singing assembly is held on alternate weeks

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the other major religions. We celebrate the cultural diversity of our community and show respect for all minority groups.

Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the New national school curriculum.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Woodheys is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

We invite parents to share in our assemblies when their children are involved in the presentation and we welcome governors to present merit certificates and attend our weekly merit assemblies whenever they can.

## Right of Withdrawal

Any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

## Monitoring

It is the role of the Religious Education Coordinators, the Head teacher and the named school governor who is linked to Religious Education to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship within the school.

## Review

We propose to review this policy in the Autumn 2019.

Mrs L Roberts

Headteacher

Coordinator of Trafford RE hub

SACRE representative

