



## **Willowbrook School**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

**Approved by the Learning Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

The Collective Worship Policy at Willowbrook School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, and in recognition of the fact that the many of our pupils are practising members of other faiths, or of no particular religious background, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

The Collective Worship Policy of Willowbrook School is consistent with our school aims and values. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

#### **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.

#### **Aims**

- The aims of collective worship at Willowbrook School are as follows:
- To promote children’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- To provide children with regular opportunities for stillness and reflection
- To encourage children to develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- To celebrate the values of the school community, including sharing the gifts and talents of students
- To help children develop an understanding of the nature and language of worship
- To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, story and drama

#### **The Legal Position**

At Willowbrook we have developed a range of themes and topics through which collective worship takes place. Key themes include justice, beginnings, trust, forgiveness, friendship and the value of all

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life. We believe that these themes are clearly Christian in nature, but are universal in their application. Great care is taken in our collective worship to ensure that all children feel valued and that their integrity as human beings is consistently upheld. Collective worship at Willowbrook is an inclusive activity. Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and this needs to be done in writing by a parent with parental responsibility. Any parent, who has any concerns about the provision or practice of collective worship, is advised to meet with the Headteacher and consider practical arrangements. Should a parent wish their child to be withdrawn, the school remains responsible for the supervision of that child.

### **Collective Worship in Practice**

So that acts of collective worship are relevant, meaningful and accessible to all of the children, our acts of worship vary in size. Our current pattern is set out below.

Monday - Whole School following theme linked to the school values

Tuesday - Class or year group assemblies

Wednesday - Class or year group assemblies

Thursday Music assembly/Hymn practice - learn new songs.

Friday - Lower or Upper school family celebration assembly on alternate weeks/class assembly

Visitors play an important part in the life of the school and they sometimes lead assemblies.