



# Southfields Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

**Date agreed: September 2023**

**Review Date: September 2025**

This policy, having been presented to, and agreed upon by the whole staff and Governors, will be distributed to:

- All teaching staff
- School governors

A copy of the policy will also be available in:

- The Staffroom
- The Head's office
- School web site

This will ensure that the policy is readily available to visiting teachers, support staff and parents.

Southfields Primary is totally committed to social justice and improving life chances for potentially vulnerable children. It is dedicated to sharing its work and findings beyond the school to improve outcomes for as many children as it can reach and has a particular specialism in Speech and Language development.

## **1. Our vision of Collective Worship at Southfields**

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, these acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the background that our children come from and it is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert the children. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive and respectful to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school community. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are of a broadly Christian character, we also hold acts of collective worship that reflect other religious traditions.

Acts of collective worship are 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. We draw on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none – in this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

## **2. The aims and purpose of Collective Worship at Southfields**

- To provide an opportunity for the children to engage in an act of worship
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To enable children to understand others’ beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To teach children how to worship

## **3. Organisation of Collective Worship**

We plan our acts of collective worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place, although some do respond to events as they happen either within the school community or in the wider local or national community of which we are a part. Some acts of collective worship offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school.

Songs/music is a very powerful means of creating the right atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the school community. We have a bank of music from which we draw upon

– taken from a variety of cultures and types- and sing a variety of carefully selected songs and hymns to match the themes.

The ethos of both assembly and worship promotes “togetherness” and a sense of school family/community. Pupils are expected to behave in an appropriate manner and we ask them to participate in a variety of ways. For example, answer questions, give opinions, describe an event or feelings and discuss. A period of prayer and reflection are given but pupils are not required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. However, they may be asked to close their eyes and reflect upon the assembly that has taken place.

Whilst most acts of collective worship are normally conducted by the Headteacher, deputy head or other members of staff, sometimes we invite guest speakers into school. These include local clergy or representatives of other faiths, representatives from Christian Aid and community groups such as the local police. Parents and Governors are also invited to attend class-led assemblies, as well as assemblies for special events (or times of the year).

Day	KS1	KS2	
		LKS2	UKS2
Monday	Singing Assembly	PSHE Assembly	
Tuesday	PSHE Assembly	Singing Assembly	
Wednesday	Picture News Assembly	RE Assembly	
Thursday	RE Assembly	Picture News Assembly	
Friday	Celebration Assembly		

**Years 4, 5 and 6 also have an oracy assembly on a Friday.**

#### **4. Right of withdrawal**

The school recognises that parents may legally request that their child is withdrawn from collective worship. Where parents are wishing to exercise this right, we would ask them to contact the Headteacher. Arrangements will be made for the child(ren) to be supervised during this time.

The Collective Worship Coordinator keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. This is shared with the Headteacher, who reports the information to the Governors of the school in numbers without using names.

## **5. Monitoring and review**

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The named Governor for this is Mr B. Rush (Vice Chair).