

Policy Reviewed: October 2019

Next Review: October 2021



SHEEN MOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL Collective Worship Policy

Background to Collective Worship at Sheen Mount Primary School

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”.

Parents of a pupil at Sheen Mount Primary School have a right to withdraw their children collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly, or partly, excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply, 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. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the head teacher. Teachers may also withdraw from worship.

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 both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Aims of Collective Worship

At Sheen Mount Primary School, we aim for collective worship to:

- foster a sense of the school’s shared identity and ethos
- enable children to become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- offer an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate the achievements and worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school
- show interest in, and a concern for, the daily happenings of members of the school community, the local community and the wider world
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society
- develop the children’s understanding of the feelings of the other people in everyday situations and their beliefs
- give the school an opportunity to be joined by members of the wider community
- be a special time in the school day that engenders a sense of occasion
- be educational and help the school to meet the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus for RE
- be approached from an ‘inclusive’ stand point, ensuring that all staff and pupils can participate, contribute and benefit

