

Reviewed: Autumn 2022

Next Review: Autumn 2025



## **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

## Collective Worship Organisation

In this school we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. We take the themes of our assemblies from various sources, including the Living Values PSHE programme, and we reflect religious festivals and events, known national or international events and aspects taken from the school calendar. Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time, however sometimes the theme of our collective worship reflects and builds on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. The assemblies may also include notices, reports and organisational information.

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher usually lead the collective worship assemblies. Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the leadership of assemblies, as well as in singing, performances of music or drama and in reflection.

Day	Assembly	Led By
Monday	Living Values Assembly: 14:55 – Years 1, 2 and 3	Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	KS1 Phase Assembly: 14.30 LKS2 Phase Assembly: 14.55 UKS2 Forum Assembly: 14:55	KS1 Phase Leader LKS2 Phase Leader Deputy Headteacher and UKS2 Phase Leader
Wednesday	Reception Singing: 14:00 KS1 Singing: 14:15 LKS2 Singing, 14:45	Music Specialist Music Specialist Music Specialist
Thursday	Living Values: 14:55 – Years 4, 5 and 6 Assembly	Deputy Headteacher
Friday	Celebration Assembly: 09:05 KS2 Celebration Assembly: 09:30 KS1	Headteacher
Various	Show and Tell, Class Soapbox, Public Speaking	Led by classteachers at various times of the week

All children of compulsory school age should have an act of collective worship each day. Class teachers are therefore responsible for ensuring that children are engaged in collective worship either as a class or as a year group on the days where there is no assembly scheduled, in accordance with the aims outlined above.

Each class, or phase, will also have the opportunity to present an assembly to the school and class parents, once an academic year.

We appreciate the need for staff to have some time during the school day set aside for planning, preparation and assessment. We also recognise the value of the whole school, including staff being involved in our school worship. Therefore, staff have a rota of non-contact time which includes the singing practice time, the key stage assemblies and some Monday and Thursday assemblies.