

# WEST PARK ACADEMY

## Collective Worship Policy



**Reviewed: February 2024**

## Aims

To ensure that Collective Worship pays due regard to the requirements, and reflects the spirit of, the relevant parts of the Education Act 1944, E.R.A 1988 and the Schools Act 1993.

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 engage in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Collective Worship takes place daily and is planned to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

### Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of West Park Academy and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing *opportunities* to:

- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs and that of others
- develop their own spirituality
- develop their own cultural understanding
- reflect on the direction of their lives
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- consider the wonders and challenges of our world
- consider what it means to be British

### The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in West Park Academy, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, particularly aspects of PSHE and RE. It will also link to our curriculum policy by promoting the school values.

Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

The Principal will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom.

Assemblies will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies, RE and PSHE lessons

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs. Collective worship acknowledges and respects the responses of individual pupils and provides opportunities for them to express those individual responses.

The half termly calendar will list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

### **The Act of Collective Worship**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

### **Withdrawal**

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly.