Southfields Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Date agreed: February 2019
Review Date: February 2021

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. The aims and purpose of Collective Worship at Southfields

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- 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

2. Our vision of Collective Worship at Southfields

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion that has the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. In line with the Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, we regularly base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church, as well as PSHE (physical, social, health and emotional) themes. We conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Whilst the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. This takes the form of either a class assembly or a key stage assembly. On special occasions with visitors or performances, KS2 hold assemblies together.

Below is the whole-school assembly timetable:
At Southfields, the class teacher conducts class assemblies, whilst class teachers and year leaders conduct key stage assemblies that take place in the hall. Sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups may also come into school to take assemblies. We also invite other guest speakers, such as representatives from Christian Aid, and community groups such as the local police. In addition to this we invite many different faiths into our school and have an active Interfaith Council who contribute to assemblies throughout the year.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith as well as other faith groups and PSHE matters, whilst we often reflect the festivals and

<table>
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<th>Day of the Week</th>
<th>Assemblies</th>
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| Monday          | Years 1 and 2 - Singing Assembly  
                    Year R - RE Collective Worship in classroom  
                    Years 3 and 4 - in assembly doing PSHE/RE with CK/LM  
                    Years 5 and 6 - PSHE Collective Worship in classroom |
| Tuesday         | Years 1 and 2 - PSHE Collective Worship in classroom  
                    Year R - PSHE with YS  
                    Years 3 and 4 - Singing Assembly  
                    Years 5 and 6 - RE Collective Worship in classroom |
| Wednesday       | Years R, 1 and 2 - RE with YS  
                    Years 3 and 4 - Celebration Assembly  
                    Years 5 and 6 - RE or PSHE Collective Worship in classroom |
| Thursday        | Years 1 and 2 - RE Collective Worship in classroom  
                    Year R - Celebration Assembly  
                    Year 3 and 4 - RE Collective Worship in classroom  
                    Years 5 and 6 - Celebration Assembly |
| Friday          | Years 1 and 2 - Celebration Assembly  
                    Year R - RE or PSHE Collective Worship in classroom  
                    Years 3 and 4 - PSHE Collective Worship in classroom  
                    Years 5 and 6 - Singing Assembly |
events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Southfields Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

Parents and governors are invited to attend special assemblies, such as end of term celebrations or events.

4. **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. 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.

The Collective Worship Coordinator keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship which is shared with the Headteacher, who reports this 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 governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on Religious Education and Collective Worship. The named Governor for this is Mr B. Rush (Vice Chair) who takes part in organising events and liaising with the coordinator to capture the schools work in this area.