



## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Introduction**

Wheatcroft Community School is a primary school, in North Yorkshire, catering for children aged from 4 to 11.

This Collective Worship policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with guidance from North Yorkshire's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE).

### **Policy statement**

This Collective Worship policy reflects the law (i.e. the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act) and strengthens the community ethos of the school.

Collective Worship will take place daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

### **The aims of collective worship in Wheatcroft School:**

The school endeavours to promote through an understanding of spiritual, moral and social development:-

- Wonder in the presence of the marvels of the natural world;
- Delight at being alive in the modern world with all it means and offers;
- Expression of emotions and feelings;
- A sense of fellowship between people;
- Attitudes, behaviour and responsibilities towards others, that reflect the Wheatcroft school driver of promoting tolerance, support and understanding within a caring community;
- Admiration for the human virtues of decency, honesty, self sacrifice, courage etc;
- Concern at the sight of cruelty, injustice, exploitation etc;
- Appreciation of beauty, truth and love.

All present should feel valued whatever their faith or personal beliefs.

Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs, which are contrary to their family background.

They will reflect the beliefs and backgrounds of individual pupils and encourage a voluntary response from pupils.

Worship will acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing and sorrow.

Collective worship will not assume a shared religious commitment. They will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

The school values the impact of collective worship on the wellbeing of all members of the school community and ensures that collective worship is regularly monitored and evaluated by the senior leadership team and governors.

## **The legal requirements: the Education Reform Act 1988**

The whole school meets together four times a week and key stage or class groups on the other day.

Whole School Assemblies are led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher and a Visitor on a Wednesday.

## **Style and Character**

The school provides a daily act of worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

The school follows the North Yorkshire SACRE Collective Worship Guidance 2015 which allows us to hold a daily act of collective worship which is of an inclusive character drawing inspiration from a range of faiths, beliefs and traditions.

In planning the collective worship policy, the school has taken into account the following issues and has tried to provide:

- An effective and evolving pattern of themes for collective worship;
- Conceptual coherence and material appropriate to the age and stage of development of the pupils;
- The flexibility to respond to changing circumstances both in and out of school.

The school has included a range of types of worship:

- Staff led;
- Assemblies led by visitors;
- Pupil involvement;
- Times of celebration;
- Opportunities for reflection and quiet;
- Storytelling;
- The creative and expressive arts;
- The sharing of knowledge, information and achievement;
- Exploration of biblical text and the use of symbolism

The approach of the school is educational and, where appropriate, curricular, linked with themes that are being studied in school. The school addresses some multi-faith issues through our assemblies, focusing on Christianity as well as other world religions.

Visitors come from a range of local churches and organisations including: ministers from local churches (United Reform, Methodist and Anglican) as well as the local Scarborough Schools Faith worker, the Rainbow Centre, Police and Fire Service.

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship on grounds of conscience should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Parents are asked to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns. It is hoped that no child will have to be withdrawn from Collective Worship, but where this is the case, the following arrangements will be made. Pupils will be supervised by a member of staff in the classroom or outside the staffroom.

### **Content and Approach**

The content of Collective Worship will be designed to enhance the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils: to provide opportunities for reflection: to celebrate the good, praise achievement and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential. Collective Worship is used as an opportunity to develop the attitudes, behaviour and responsibilities towards others, that reflect the Wheatcroft school driver of promoting tolerance, support and understanding within a caring community.

- Celebration of the festivals of Christianity;
- Information on major festivals and other faiths;
- Presentation of bible stories;
- Topical materials from local and national news;
- Literature with implicit and explicit religious or moral teaching;
- Learning about inspiring figures from history and the present day
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements, work of ourselves and others;
- Prayer in different forms – formal, children's own, silence and meditation.

Children enter and leave the place of collective worship to appropriate music. They are expected to sit quietly and be attentive. The school always has a song and a prayer or time of reflection.

At Christmas, Harvest time and other special celebrations, parents and members of the wider community are invited to participate.

Approved by staff: September 2015

Approved by the Governing Body: September 2015

First Shared with parents (school website): September 2015

Date of Review: January 2023

Next review: January 2026