# Norwood Green Junior School

# Collective Worship Policy

**Policy ratified by Governing Body: June 2024**

**Policy to be reviewed by Governing Body: June 2027**

At Norwood Green Junior School the aims and purpose of collective worship are seen as:

- providing the opportunity for children to worship God
- giving pupils a sense of awe and wonder
- a reflection of our diverse community background
- a chance to celebrate and reflect on the important festivals and traditions of a multitude of faiths
- enhancing our community spirit through a common ethos, shared values and positive attitudes
- encouraging active participation and responses
- an opportunity to explore pupil's own beliefs
- an opportunity to express value and respect for a variety of faiths
- providing the opportunity to consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues

**Collective Worship**

Collective worship is interpreted at Norwood Green Juniors as the act of showing reverence to God. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, our school offers children a daily act of worship. For over 30 years our school has had a determination from SACRE and therefore our daily acts of worship have not been based on one religion but reflect the diverse community which attends our school. These acts of worship are therefore multi-faith and seek to celebrate and explore universal values and experiences across a wide range of faiths.

**Organisation of Collective Worship**

Our daily act of worship is currently organised within two whole school assemblies, singing assembly, weekly Book club and three Storytimes. These acts of worship are led by class teachers and senior leaders. The worship element of these assemblies is made explicit through the use of music and reflection time to identify it as separate from other elements of the assembly. During the act of worship, children are encouraged to be thoughtful and reflective, as well as display quiet, calm behaviour that shows respect to all pupils and their beliefs. In addition, pupils are encouraged to participate actively in the reflection process. The themes for our assemblies and acts of worship take account of our range of faiths and are organised in advance on a termly basis by the RE and PSHCE co-ordinator and SMT. In addition, we have special festival assemblies and an element of worship within these each term. These are taken from the SACRE calendar and a record of festivals celebrated over many years is kept to ensure balance across the range of faiths.

**Right of Withdrawal**

All children attend assembly, but parents have the right to withdraw their child from the act of worship without explanation or reason. This complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head teacher is responsible for ensuring the safe supervision of any child excused from worship and also keeps a record of withdrawn pupils.

**Monitoring and Review**

At Norwood Green Juniors the act of worship within class is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team. Parents are aware of our determination and together with Governors and staff are welcome to comment upon our Collective Worship direction. Following monitoring and any responses from our wider school community, the policy is reviewed and amendments made where appropriate.