



## WEST EARLAM JUNIOR SCHOOL

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date Approved by Governing Body: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

Date of Next Review: May 2019

Signed Head Teacher:  22/5/18

Signed Chair of Governors:  22/5/18 .

## Policy for Collective Worship at West Earlham Junior School

### **The legal requirements for Collective Worship**

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- the act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings
- it may happen at any time of the school day
- it has to take place on school premises
- the head teacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met.
- all staff, including the headteacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective worship. The headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship.
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

### **The aims of Collective Worship at West Earlham Junior School**

The government requires all schools to provide an act of Collective worship. At West Earlham Junior School we acknowledge that our school community is not a 'worshipping community' in the same sense as a local church. We provide daily acts of Collective Worship, however, which we believe help children understand some of the features of worship. Our daily collective worship is based around themes that promote our school learner values which are:

Self Motivated, Independent Thinker, Positive World Citizen, Resilient, Aspirational, Adventurous, Self Confident, Creative Thinker.

We have chosen these elements because we believe they are also important features of our everyday life in school and are therefore appropriate responses for all pupils and staff in our community.

The law also requires us to provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God as part of our Collective Worship. We therefore try to provide an opportunity to respond in the form of a time of quiet reflection at some point in each act of collective worship. This is a time for each pupil and adult present to be quiet and think about what they have heard; this will provide opportunity for each to worship their God if they should wish to do so.

## **The approach to Collective Worship at West Earlham Junior School**

The acts of collective worship are planned to give pupils a variety of experiences to enable them to reflect on, and respond to things, which we as a school community, believe are important. These experiences will include:

- Stories and ideas shared (Biblical, Multi-cultural and factual)
- Discussion and questions
- Guest speakers
- Music and poetry

## **The organisation of Collective Worship**

There is an act of Collective worship every day following the pattern shown below:

Monday	Whole School	Hall 11:45-12:00	Head
Tuesday	Years 3 and 4	Hall 11:45-12:00	Year 3 and 4 Staff
	Years 5 and 6	Classrooms	Year 5 and 6 Staff
Wednesday	Whole School	Hall 11:45-12:00	Teaching staff
Thursday	Years 5 and 6	Hall 11:45-12:00	Year 5 and 6 Staff
	Years 3 and 4	Classrooms	Year 3 and 4 Staff
Friday	Whole School	Hall 11:45-12:00	DHt

The acts of worship follow themes designed by staff, which support the school learner values. While staff are encouraged to follow these, allowances are made for marking festivals or other newsworthy events.

## **Withdrawal**

Parents need to contact the headteacher in writing to make this arrangement. No reason needs to be given, however the school will contact parents and offer them the opportunity to discuss the issues concerning withdrawal. Staff also have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship.