**The Grove School**

**Collective Worship Policy**

**Reviewed: June 2025**

**4 year cycle**

**Next review: June 2029**

**Philosophy of collective worship at The Grove School**

 “Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light” *Albus Dumbledore* (J.K. Rowling)

The Grove School is a Community school. Collective worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by all children, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

**Collective Worship and the Law**

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking into account of the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will be only made following discussions with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Special arrangements will be made by governors to supervise children withdrawn from acts of worship. In addition, staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

*The School Standards and Framework Act 1998*

**Rationale**

Inclusion is important to our vision and we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils. There is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for all pupils at different levels of understanding. Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the backgrounds from which pupils come.

At The Grove School Collective Worship we aim to:

* Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member
* Give expression to reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
* Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
* Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
* Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
* Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
* Lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of different faiths and world views
* Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to;
* Experience stillness and quiet
* Experience a variety of forms of music, art, drama, story that lead to personal reflection
* Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

***At The Grove School. we arrange Acts of Collective Worship/assemblies in the following ways;***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Grouping** | **Leadership** | **Theme / pupil’s role**  |
| **Monday**  | Whole school | Head teacher | *theme of the half term* |
| **Tuesday** | KS1 and EYFSand KS2 in class refection time | Key stage assembly led by teacher or children | *Linked to Mondays theme* |
| **Wednesday** | KS2and KS1 and EYFS in class refection time | Key stage assembly led by teacher or children | *Linked to Mondays theme* |
| **Thursday** | Whole school | teachers | *Singing assembly* |
| **Friday**  | Whole school Praise Assembly | Headteacher | *Celebration Together*  |

**Leadership, Planning and Evaluation of Collective Worship/Assemblies**

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity. Staff are given appropriate training and mentoring to equip them in their roles as worship/assembly leaders.

All pupils attend an Act of Collective Worship/Assembly each day. These are organised on a rota and include whole school, phase-based and class-based worship.

A record is kept of Collective Worship. The Worship Coordinator is responsible for keeping this record.

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship. Children, teachers, and governors are all involved in evaluation of Collective Worship.

**Special services**

We join together as a community at special times, e.g. Leavers’ service, special times of celebration such as Red Nose Day and Poppy Day of Remembrance.

**Visitors to school**

Visitors leading collective worship must be given clear instructions concerning age and ability of the pupils, purpose of occasion and appropriate delivery (content and material used).

The school will ensure that checks are made about connections with the school e.g. parent, charity representative, clergy from another denomination, adviser, colleague before the day

There will be a sharing of the aims and objectives of the visits and links made to the overall scheme for Collective worship.

The visitor’s method will be reviewed before another invitation is extended.

A follow up session will be linked where considered appropriate to the developing theme.

Visitors should report to the office to announce their arrival. All visitors must sign the visitor’s book and may not be left with the children unless member of the school staff is present. They will be thanked as they leave the building.