

OXHEY FIRST SCHOOL

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY 2023

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| The Collective Worship Policy in respect of the School has been discussed and adopted by the Local Advisory Board in Summer 2023  *Chair of Board: Mrs Shenton*  *Responsible Headteacher – Mrs Jukes*  *Agreed and ratified by the Local Advisory Board May 2023*  *To be reviewed: May 2025* |

**Oxhey First School**

**Collective Worship Policy 2023**

**(To be read in conjunction with the school’s RE and PSHRE Ed policies)**

**The overall intent of our school curriculum is to:**

**Recognise uniqueness**: in our pupils, staff, resources and whole school community

**Be Inclusive:** recognizing learning styles, learning needs at all levels and providing solutions to any barriers to learning we encounter

**Engage and Inspire:** Through knowledge rich, highly enriched, progressive and purposeful contexts

**Promote Aspiration:** offering challenge and accountability

**Create citizens of the Future:** who thrive on responsibility, see difference as a strength of our community and use democracy to embed their own values and beliefs.

Our curriculum strives to drive all of these intentions and links very closely to the achievement and development of them all.

## Rationale

Collective Worship forms an integral part of our school’s wider personal development intent and is underpinned by our school’s values. We support children to develop the knowledge, skills and the understanding that they need to lead confident, healthy and independent lives and become responsible citizens of the future. We recognise that our school vision is crucial to this learning and should be at the heart of whole-school development.

## Intent

Our aims and purpose of collective worship are:

* To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
* To enable children to explore their own 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.

## Collective worship

* In an educational context, worship reflects the values, aspirations and faith of the people worshipping. It is a time when the whole school or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none – in this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.
* In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’, our assemblies include traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.
* We also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider society.

### Implementation

* We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each assembly, which can be either a whole-school assembly or a class assembly.
* We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask children to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns.
* The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by local clergy or other representatives of local community groups.
* We take the themes of our assemblies from some traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum including through PHSRE Ed.
* Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.
* Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.
* There are Key Stage assemblies and events that parents are invited to attend. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children’s achievements. Governors’ attendance is always welcome.

### Impact

Collective Worship serves as a key part of our overall PSHRE Ed and SMSC curriculum and forms part of our wider whole school approach to personal, social, moral and cultural development of pupils. Through Collective Worship children will:

* Develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness.
* Engage with the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, respect and tolerance of those with differing faiths and beliefs.
* Understand and act on our School values in all areas of school life
* Explore and develop their own values and beliefs.

### Right of withdrawal

* We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly e.g the Nativity performance. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

### Role of Leaders

* Plan an effective and varied schedule of monitoring so that they know the Quality of Collective Worship well.
* Provide clear updates to the Local Advisory Board, Headteacher and SLT.