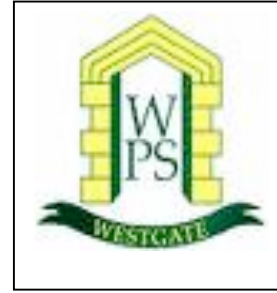


Westgate School
A place of Excellence
Collective Worship Policy
September 2012



WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy outlines the organisation and management of Collective Worship at Westgate Primary School.

We provide quality collective worship which makes a vital contribution to develop and reinforce our school ethos and values, giving opportunities to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all the pupils and staff. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other.

Aims

- To provide pupils with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood)
- To give children opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian (and other faith traditions') stories, events and festivals and how these might affect their lives.
- To offer experiences and opportunities for pupils to join in with, and respond to, a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs.
- To promote shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship.

Legal Requirements

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires that all pupils registered in maintained schools attend a daily act of worship, the majority of these acts must be '**wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character**' but this does not preclude consideration of other faiths and/or secular viewpoints. In this way collective worship can provide opportunities to develop a reflective understanding of 'self', 'others' and 'God' thus contributing towards enhancing community cohesion.

DFE Circular 1/94 57 states that collective worship should reflect something special or separate from ordinary activities; it should be concerned with reference or veneration paid to a divine being or power. However, worship in school will be of a different character from worship among a group with beliefs in common, hence collective worship rather than corporate worship.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the collective worship part of a school assembly. Staff have the right to withdraw from collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'.

Children are not withdrawn from whole school collective worship in order to take part in another

school activity.

The Organisation of Collective Worship at Westgate Primary School

Collective worship takes place each day in the school hall at 9am, except Friday when it is held at 2.45pm

It is led by the Head Teacher, members of the Senior Leadership Team and all teaching staff have the opportunity to lead collective worship each term.

On Friday there is a sharing assembly led by one of the year groups.

Visitors regularly lead collective worship at Westgate.

Health and Safety

The school health and safety policy is adhered to at all times. Care is taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment is routinely checked. Children and visiting adults are made aware of procedures in the event of a fire, being familiar with the exits from the hall.

Content

There is a carefully planned program each half term (including SEAL). This provides a framework from which collective worship can be planned. However the theme is flexible and takes account of unplanned but important events.

Collective worship challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. Religions are presented accurately and fairly, diversity and equality are affirmed.

It may contain some of the following

- A song or hymn
- A time for quiet reflection
- A moment's silence
- A prayer
- A story, religious or otherwise
- A short piece of drama
- A focal point, flowers, picture etc
- A candle lighting

We create an atmosphere of stillness and calm, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall.

Resources for collective worship are stored in the Resources Room.

Adopted by Governors

Date for review September 2013