WIMBLEDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Approved by Governors, November 2025

Next revision: Nov 2028

What is Collective Worship?

The word ‘worship’ comes from Anglo-Saxon word ‘worth-ship’ which schools may interpret as those things that are important for us to promote (e.g. values).

SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) suggests that Collective Worship:

- Can mean incorporating elements that Christians might recognise from their worship e.g. songs, music, stories, learning from the good examples of others, readings from holy books
- Does not mean making a pretence of Christian worship
- Does mean promoting values that Christians believe to be important, these may be and often are, values held to be important by other faiths as well
- Does not need to contain any elements of Christian ritual or liturgy
- Must not be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination

Collective Worship at WPPS is not the same as worship in different faith communities because a community school is not a faith community. WPPS values its diversity with different religious views and beliefs - our community consists of a wide range of families with different views on what Collective Worship might mean and what or whom may be worthy of worship.

Therefore, at WPPS Collective Worship will reflect and take note of considerations of the WPPS community, family backgrounds, age and aptitude of the children when determining the content and character of worship. It will follow the aims and purposes set out below.

Collective Worship Procedures (consistent with what we are required to do by law)

- Collective Worship is provided daily for all pupils in Reception to Year 6 – separate assembly arrangements apply to the nursery
- Different groupings of pupils will come together for Collective Worship (e.g. whole school, key stage, year groups, classes)
- The content of the majority of acts of Collective Worship in a term will be ‘wholly or mainly’ of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad traditions of Christian belief
- The content should have regard for/take account of the family backgrounds of pupils
- Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship
- Teachers can withdraw from Collective Worship

Purposes/Aims for Collective Worship at WPPS

The school's main purpose is to educate, ensuring that all pupils achieve their full potential and their highest academic standards.'

We aim to:-

1. Encourage pupils to develop an awareness of the universal moral principles of right and wrong, justice and fairness, and a proper concern for the fate of others and the world
2. Affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of the school and acknowledge Fundamental British Values, as defined by DFE.
3. Develop pupils' awareness of and sense of belonging to the many different aspects of the WPPS community
4. Create a sense of gathering for a special purpose
5. Offer an opportunity to share an experience which promotes thought and reflection
6. Promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
7. Promote pupils' understanding and respect for each other, and respect and understanding of various beliefs and faiths
8. Promotes pupils' understanding of and thinking of the wider community and their participation and contribution to it
9. Celebrate diversity and commonality, valuing each other and affirming individual and group, class, whole school achievements
10. Help pupils consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response
11. Help pupils to reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background. This may include worship of God within a participants' own faith and understanding.

The governors will monitor the implementation of this policy through discussion and review at governing body meetings at least annually.