

# **Yorkmead J/I School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Introduction**

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be: “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be: “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils.”

Within our school (non-denominational), there are children from a range of different religious backgrounds including Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh as well as those of non-faith backgrounds. We recognise that in asking our children to worship, we have to consider the backgrounds that our children come from. It is therefore not the practice of this school to preach to or convert pupils. The faith background of both the staff and pupils’ families is respected at all times.

The Head Teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Parents of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. See ‘Right to Withdraw’

### **Values and Aims**

At Yorkmead, we believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in all aspects of school life. We have a caring ethos, and place value on the development of the whole child - spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life.

Through our collective worship, we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and the wider community.
- Reflect on their personal thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings and thoughts of others in a variety of situations and with differing beliefs.
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- Develop respect for the world and its people.

- Respond to religious and/or spiritual stimuli.
- Acknowledge diversity within the school and wider community.

### **The Nature of Worship**

True worship cannot be forced as it is a very personal response to an emotive experience. Worship at Yorkmead aims to offer rich and varied experiences which may involve any of the following:

- Contemplation
- Listening
- Thinking
- Reflection
- Imagination
- Story telling
- Visual and/or audio aids
- Participation through singing or prayer (with sensitivity to the mixed nature of our school community)
- Sharing of knowledge, information and experiences
- Exploration of sacred texts or symbols

### **Practice and Organisation**

Collective worship at Yorkmead is appropriate for, and includes all pupils. The acts of collective worship take place either in the hall or in classes. See timetable below.

Day	Collective Worship (Hall)
Monday	Whole School
Tuesday	Key Stage 2
Wednesday	Key Stage 1
Thursday	Song Practice (alternate key stages)
Friday	Whole School

When pupils are not in the hall, collective worship takes place in classrooms with year groups joining together.

Each Friday, a celebration assembly takes place. This assembly congratulates pupils for good work, effort, attitude and behaviour. It is also used to celebrate good attendance.

Through assemblies, major religious festivals are celebrated. These include Christmas, Eid, Diwali and Easter. Harvest is also celebrated.

### **Right to Withdraw**

Parents of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Should a parent wish to withdraw their child they will be invited to discuss this with the Head Teacher before making a final decision. However, the school will respect a parent's wishes. If a child is withdrawn from collective worship, they will be supervised by a member of staff in another part of the school.

This policy was agreed in September 2016.

Renewal Date: September 2018.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors