



# STAG LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Collective Worship Policy



**Article 14:** Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

**Article 29:** Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

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Written by	Elena Evans
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Chair of Governors:	

## Stag Lane Junior School Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship occupies a unique place in school life at Stag Lane Junior and makes a vital contribution in building our school community and upholding the rights of every child. It is a time when people are openly valued as individuals and is an ideal opportunity for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. In accordance with the values of the school which are **embodied in the rights of the child**, collective worship enables those with a faith commitment to worship appropriately, whilst those who are uncommitted can reflect on values.

We welcome the many different cultures that are represented at Stag Lane Junior by both the pupils and the staff. However, sensitive planning is needed to ensure that all members of the community can participate without compromising their integrity, personal belief or faith. Collective Worship should be collective and inclusive enabling all to take part.

### **Purpose**

We recognise that Collective Worship offers the opportunity:

- \* to ensure the rights of the child are promoted, encouraged and valued,
- \* to make explicit the values and assumptions which underpin the day to day life of the school and the wider community,
- \* to help children become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community
- \* to celebrate achievements and special occasions in respect of the pupils (individually and collectively), the school and the wider community,
- \* to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore our own beliefs,
- \* to promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes,
- \* to foster a thought provoking atmosphere and explore language used to express feelings
- \* to develop community spirit,
- \* to recognise and reflect the multi-faith nature of our school and our community and to encourage respect and recognition for the beliefs of others,
- \* to celebrate and to affirm difference and diversity,
- \* to enable pupils to reflect upon a range of inspirational writings, music and works of art drawn from a variety of cultures.
- \* to share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school,
- \* to deepen children's sense of awe and wonder.

### **Values and Aims**

We believe at this school that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos, and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner. It enables them to uphold the rights of others.

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 wider community
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of the other people in every day situations and beliefs
- Explore the language which people use to express their feelings

- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Grow in understanding about the articles of the UNCRC.
- Grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond freely to religious and/or spiritual stimulus
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school and the UNCRC. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved. In particular school worship here develops the feeling of belonging to a community which is essential for personal development and spiritual growth.

### **Statutory Duty of School**

All schools must provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents),

- \* the Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body,
- \* it may be for different age groups or in different school groups and need not be for the whole school together,
- \* it shall be "wholly or broadly of a Christian character". However, it should still be non denominational. A broadly Christian act of worship may include material from another faith,
- \* Collective Worship should be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils,
- \* parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Teachers also retain the right to withdraw from assemblies.

**Where there are substantial numbers of pupils of another faith, the school may apply for a determination from SACRE- that the requirement for worship to be mainly Christian need not apply. At Stag Lane Junior we have not applied to SACRE because many of the characteristics of Christianity are shared by all the faiths.**

### **Who was consulted?**

This policy was shared with the Governing Body, following a consultation with staff, pupils and the Parent Forum.

### **Relationship to other policies**

This policy is related to the Curriculum Statement, Race Equality and Cultural Diversity Policy and the Equal Opportunities Statement.

### **Role of the Headteacher**

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Governing Body. The Headteacher is also responsible for ensuring that Collective Worship takes place daily.

### **Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangements for Collective Worship. It also ensures that there is a daily act of Collective Worship and that alternative provision is made for those pupils whose parents withdraw them from Collective Worship.

## **Staff**

All staff are expected to participate and in and make an active contribution to Collective Worship and encourage pupils to become actively involved.

## **Implementation**

At Stag Lane Junior we have a daily assembly where Collective Worship takes place. Four assemblies are whole school, while the other one is class based.

**Whole School-** Monday – 1.30-1.45, Thursday – 1.30-1.45, Friday 1.30-1.45, Wednesday - 3.00- 3.30

**Class Based-** Tuesday as planned by individual class teachers.

Collective Worship is an important part of the work of the school, so it must be carefully planned for to ensure that it is acceptable to all the pupils in our school.

We will use Collective Worship in whole school assemblies to share the festivals of the different faiths to promote understanding and tolerance. However, this must be done sensitively so that everyone feels comfortable and that their integrity is not compromised.

Senior Leaders usually lead the whole school worship, with a rota of other staff leading worship occasionally.

Assemblies themes are varied and encompass religious festivals, known national or international events, and aspects taken from the school calendar as well as a focus on different articles from the UNCRC.

We believe that creating the right atmosphere is crucial to the quality of the worship. Therefore, the time is not over-dominated by school administration or moralising. We plan the time so that there is a verity in content and methods, allowing opportunity for quiet personal reflection/worship.

Whole School assembly themes are recorded in Teachers Only/Assemble Themes and are shared termly with the Children, Families and Communities Committee. References to the Articles are also recorded.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

- The school will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.
- The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.
- The Headteacher will provide a report to the Governing Body (CFC) termly on the themes covered in the daily acts of worship and how they complement the school's aims and values.
- Parents, staff and pupils will be consulted about the impact of the Collective Worship Policy.
- Members of the Governing Body will attend assemblies and feed this information into the evaluation of collective worship.

## **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

At Stag Lane Junior School we evaluate our acts of worship against some of the following:

- Involvement, enjoyment, attention, reaction of pupils
- The growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- Positive response to shared experience
- An atmosphere which matches the theme
- Pupils' feedback in conferencing
- Recognition that Collective Worship promotes our Rights Respecting ethos in the assessment reports.