



# Dallington Collective Worship Policy

## 2025

*...be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith and our pure life. (1 Timothy 4:12)*

### **Collective Worship Statement**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an collective worship. We expect everyone to play an active part in the collective worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and may make reference to the beliefs of others.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### **Organisation of Collective worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily collective worship, which is normally a whole-school collective worship.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

Pupils are invited out to say prayers during worship and are also encouraged to write prayers, either in lessons or voluntarily at home, which may be read out by them or the adult in charge if they prefer. Grace is said before lunch.

Pupils learn and say together from memory our 'The Lord's Prayer' and our daily Grace

The Head teachers and members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

The themes are chosen by the head teacher (in consultation with the local clergy)– these are based on the traditions of the Christian faith – this includes reflection of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. I.C.T. links are made and suggested resources are clearly identified.

Our Friday worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.

Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised.

We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

We welcome parents' attendance at our family services - Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. They take place in church and are led by a member of the church and head teacher.

Following work by our School Council (January 2020) we try to ensure that the Collective Worship is interactive, fun and enjoyable.

The head teacher manages the timetables and planning at the beginning of each term, ensuring staff collective worship leaders have copies of the required planning to ensure breadth, balance, continuity and coverage and to ensure each collective worship is different in content but based on the theme for the week.

A period of quiet reflection is included in all assemblies; a candle is usually lit which children hold in pairs together and the lights are dimmed.

Reflection Corners can be found in classes and across the school, whereby Collective Worship is reinforced and provides opportunities for children to extend their prayer and thought processes.

Collective worship takes place every day at 9:50am. On Tuesdays, the whole school attends a service at St Giles' Church.

## **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the role of a named school governor (Rev. Marc Lloyd) with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship, and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.

To be reviewed 2026