



## Collective Worship Policy

**Nominated Lead Member of Staff:**

**Katharine Burr (RE Leader)**

**Status & Review Cycle:**

**Statutory**

**Next Review Date:**

**Spring 2029**

### Statement of Principles and Beliefs

Shottermill is a non-denominational Junior School with approximately 260 pupils on roll, aged from 7-11 years. The children come from a variety of backgrounds and there is a broad social mix and a range of faiths and cultures represented within the school.

Daily collective worship is a statutory requirement. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. This right is only exercised very occasionally and an application to request withdrawing a child from RE or Collective Worship, must be made in writing to the Headteacher at the earliest opportunity. Staff who work within the school, also have the right not to participate in acts of Collective Worship but must uphold the **Core Values** and moral purpose defined by the school:

#### OUR CORE VALUES

We have a shared **Respect** for one another and value diversity across our school community.

We develop kind, caring relationships built on a foundation of **Trust** and which ensure everyone feels safe.

We promote a **Love of Learning** where children can develop across all areas of the curriculum.

We model and use effective **Communication** to enable everyone to feel part of our school.

We foster **Creativity** to develop expression, approaches to solving problems and an appreciation for each other's work.

**Excellence** underpins everything we do; we will not accept anything less!

#### OUR MISSION IS TO

- Put children's needs at the centre of everything we do;
- Ensure children feel safe and secure through a culture of respect and trust;
- Value all contributions, celebrate diversity and individual talents;
- Provide the highest quality learning experiences;
- Enable children to feel confident in extending the boundaries of their learning;
- Enable children to become motivated, responsible citizens who are well prepared for life in modern Britain;
- Provide an environment where staff can feel fulfilled and rewarded in what they do;
- Be a fully contributing member of our local community.

Worship at Shottermill is largely of a broadly Christian nature but will also reflect the range of cultures, religions

and values that are relevant to our pupils in our locality. Collective Worship is also an important tool to promote and develop **British Values** through exploring the following key areas:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

At Shottermill we believe that our daily Collective Worship is a very important part of the school and contributes to children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. It is a time for the whole school, key stages, year groups or classes to meet and share together in a positive, caring atmosphere.

### Collective Worship in Our School

#### **Spiritual**

- provides opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- provides opportunities for the expression of joy, wonder and praise
- provokes further thought on spiritual and moral topics
- provides opportunity to experience awe and wonder

#### **Educational**

- relates to children's experience, environment and curriculum
- is challenging, quality learning experiences with invited guests or experts
- celebrates children's achievements
- facilitates children's appreciation of each other's differences, improves their conduct and behaviour and develops a positive attitude towards other cultures and society in modern Britain

#### **Relevant**

- provides opportunities for broadening knowledge of the **Core Values** or whole school **themes** on a weekly basis
- through positive stories, current affairs and real life examples, allows children to have a context for SMSC development
- facilitates opportunities to participate and respond
- is relevant to children's age, aptitude and needs

### Aims of Collective Worship at our School

- To link together with the PSHE whole school Jigsaw themes: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me.
- To encourage a reflective approach to life.
- To introduce children to various aspects of religious worship (prayer, hymns, music, drama, art) in an honest and open atmosphere.
- To develop a sense of personal responsibility towards our community and the wider world around us and a sense of commitment to each other.
- To celebrate together what is good about the school and community and to foster a sense of acceptance and fellowship.
- To increase sensitivity towards, and awareness of, the search for meaning in the face of life's mysteries.
- To create an atmosphere where those who wish to worship may do so.
- To recognise that people hold different beliefs and to value and encourage respect for different cultures.
- To develop awareness and understanding of religious festivals and how they are celebrated.
- To define the uniqueness of the school in relation to its **Core Values**.
- To prepare children for modern life in Britain.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship at our School**

Collective Worship at Shottermill Junior School is delivered in a range of ways. The expectation is that children will come together for an assembly in our school hall every day, except Wednesday, when a class assembly is held.

Further assemblies and reflection times are built into the week but times and arrangements are sometimes flexible to accommodate occasional timetable variations, such as when visiting specialists are leading these. In all instances, children will experience Collective Worship every day using any of the following approaches:

- Class assemblies, led by the class teacher, visiting guests or the children themselves.
- Reflection times either as a whole class or year group led by an adult, which may include quiet time (e.g. calm me) to contemplate, sharing of a poem, quote or prayer.
- Parent invited class assemblies in front of the whole school or in smaller groups.
- Upper / Lower Key Stage assemblies held in either the school hall or Dance Studio.
- Special assemblies where visiting speakers from local organisations are invited to come in to focus on a special theme such as NSPCC.
- A team from Wey Assembly Team come at least once a term to lead a school assembly using the PSHCE Seal programme and sometimes focusing on Christian festivals such as Harvest or Easter.
- Children sometimes visit other places of worship to celebrate festivals and participate in Collective Worship such as a Carol Service at Christmas.

### **Collective Worship and PSHE**

At Shottermill Junior School, we use **Jigsaw** to deliver our PSHE lessons and aspects of Collective Worship. It provides a structured programme of personal development to nurture the 'whole child' and increase learning capacity, underpinned by mindfulness philosophy and practice.

Every Jigsaw lesson from Lower Key Stage 2 to Upper Key Stage 2 offers opportunities for children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and this is clearly mapped and balanced across each year group.

Likewise, Jigsaw is designed to provide structured opportunities in every lesson to practise and enhance the five skills associated with the emotional literacy (self-awareness, social skills, empathy, motivation and managing feelings). We believe that these opportunities are vital for children's development, their understanding of themselves and others and in increasing their capacity to learn.