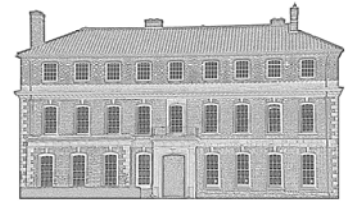


# WINDLESHAM HOUSE SCHOOL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**Reviewed: January 2011**

**Policy Ref: 047**



**Windlesham**

### 1) Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are to:

- a) provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- b) enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- c) enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- d) encourage participation and response;
- e) develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- f) promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- g) teach children how to worship.

This policy also applies to our Early Years Foundation Stage and after School care.

### 2) Collective worship

- a) 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 assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- b) 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 the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.
- c) While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### 3) Organisation of collective worship

- a) In Little Windlesham, we hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each morning assembly, which can be either a Little Windlesham assembly or a Chapel assembly with the Junior department.
- b) In the main Prep School, Chapel is held 3 times a week (Monday, Thursday & Sunday mornings) and occasionally on a Sunday evening as an alternative to the morning, when parents and carers are invited to attend.
- c) The Chapel service is lead by various members of Staff and outside guests, often Heads or senior management from other schools, are also invited to lead Chapel services.
- d) We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere (eg by using music), to focus the attention of the children.

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- e) The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but are sometimes led by other representatives of local groups.
- f) We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and from moral stories. We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies well in advance of the day they take place.
- g) In Little Windlesham, our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the assemblies by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. Windlesham is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our assemblies.
- h) In Little Windlesham, each week parents and carers are invited to attend our Wednesday Chapel assembly. We encourage their attendance as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and the homes working together in support of the children's achievements.
- i) Little Windlesham children take the Junior Chapel service once each term when we particularly encourage family and friends to attend. In addition Harvest and Christmas are celebrated by the children preparing a service or performance.

#### **4) Right of withdrawal**

- a) We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- b) The LW Head and the main school Deputy Head keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

#### **5) Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.