



**Sir John Lillie Primary School**  
**Collective Worship Policy**

## Introduction

This non statutory document outlines the Sir John Lillie Primary School ("SJL") Collective Worship Policy. It details how Collective Worship ("CW") is promoted throughout SJL. This policy is reviewed on an annual basis or as circumstances require.

The Collective Worship Policy at Sir John Lillie Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE, whilst reflecting the multi-faith community it serves. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

The Collective Worship Policy of Sir John Lillie Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school values. At SJL, collective worship is set within the context of 'Assemblies' – which may include other features besides those required of collective worship. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Assemblies are delivered to the whole school, KS2, KS1) and Foundation Stage (Nursery & Reception) at separate times and take into account the different ages and abilities of the children concerned.

## Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## Aims

Collective Worship is an important part of the school day. It takes place each day but the time and location may alter. It affords a time for each child to:

- reflect and be still
- feel a member of the school community and develop a community spirit
- celebrate success and joy
- meet together at times of sadness or emotional significance
- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- reinforce positive attitudes
- discuss and embody British values (*democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.*)
- mark significant festivals and school events.

SJL is a culturally diverse community and this is reflected through our CW policy. Major festivals such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Diwali, Chinese New Year. Purim. Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are explored and celebrated as appropriate.

## Withdrawal from Religious Education

All children will take part in RE and collective worship. Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner that is sensitive and inclusive to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, in accordance with Education Reform Act 1988 s9(3), parents or carers have right to withdraw their child from either or both. Should they wish to exercise this right, parents/carers are asked to write to the school, stating their wishes. Children who are withdrawn will be provided with a quiet area in which they will reflect or read under the supervision of a member of staff.

## Equal Opportunities

We will provide opportunities for all our children, regardless of gender, race or disability. For more information on equal opportunities, please refer to SJL's "Equal Opportunities" policy.

## **Prayers**

Adults leading acts of CW will introduce any prayers in their collective context, stating the religion they are drawn from and inviting children to either join in or sit quietly and reflect on the words as the children wish. A non-religious thought for the day may also be used.

## **Visitors**

Visitors from local faith communities may, from time to time, be invited to lead the act of CW. They will be made familiar with the multi-faith nature of the school and asked that they do not at any time preach during their visit.