



## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Mission Statement**

At Rushey Green School we work in partnership with parents to provide an education of the highest quality, which celebrates everyone's success in a happy, caring environment, where all our differences are valued.

### **Aims**

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God,

- to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered;
- And to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

**All children are expected to participate in daily collective worship.**

### **Meaning of collective worship**

According to legislation, all schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship. This must reflect the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian and represent something 'Special' or 'Separate' from ordinary school activities.

As part of our collective worship in addition to Christmas and Easter, we celebrate other festivals such as;

- Diwali
- Eid
- Hanukkah

Themes and festivals are systematically selected from the 6 major religions as set out in the Lewisham's Agreed syllabus for Religious Education

### **Exercise of right of withdrawal**

Parents have a right to withdraw their child/ren from collective worship.

The parental right to withdraw a child from attending collective worship should be freely exercisable and the school must give effect to any such request.

If, however, both parent and school agree that the pupil should be allowed to remain physically present during the collective worship but not take part in it, nothing in the law prevents this.

To avoid misunderstanding, the school will clarify with any parent wanting to exercise the right of withdrawal-

- the elements of worship to which the parent objects; and
- the practical implications of withdrawal.

Last Reviewed 2015  
Next Review date: Autumn 2018