

Collective Worship Policy

Hillside Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Statement of Principle

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.

Collective Worship should be inclusive, enjoyable and relevant to the everyday life of the children. It should be educational and give a spiritual dimension to work in other areas. It should foster a sense of community, shared values, identity and purpose. Collective worship should involve pupils as active participants and should contribute to their overall development.

The Collective Worship Policy of Hillside Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Legislation

The Collective Worship Policy at Hillside Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA. It is also in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

Aims of Collective Worship:

- To provide experiences that give children the opportunity to worship, to reflect and to make a personal response.
- To encourage attitudes of sensitivity to the needs of others.
- To enable children to understand and respect British Values (The Rule of Law, Democracy, Individual Liberty and mutual respect and tolerance) – see British Values Policy.
- To celebrate achievement and special times.
- To help them make links between the social, moral, cultural and spiritual aspects of their development/lives.
- To celebrate Christian festivals and those of the main world religions-Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Hillside Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum and enrich work in class through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Organisation of Collective Worship
Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and takes place in the school hall or the classroom. Collective worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate. Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors are involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship
The content of all acts of Collective Worship is carefully considered, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but are flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

Visitors
While visitors may be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time, they must follow school guidelines, will be well-vetted and may require references, to ensure that we don't provide a platform for anyone to radicalise our children or spread hateful or divisive narratives. Leaders from faiths and non-religious groups within the area increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these traditions.

The Act of Collective Worship
A variety of teaching and learning styles, and active and interactive methods, are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources are also used. Leaders choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils. These methods may include: stories, songs, music, prayer, reflection, drama, art, artefacts

Withdrawal
Our assemblies are conducted in a sensitive and inclusive manner to ensure that all children want and feel comfortable to attend. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal. Similarly, staff also have the right to withdraw from acts of Collective Worship.

Monitoring & review, policy into practice
The named Governor for Collective Worship will work alongside the Headteacher and RE Lead Teacher, to regularly monitor and evaluate mechanisms to ensure that the policy is being consistently applied. Any issues identified will be incorporated into the school's action planning.

Designated Link Governor: Suzie Nicholson-Allen
Name/Signature of Headteacher: Simon Minter
Date: Dec 2025
Review date: Dec 2028