

Hook Junior School – Collective Worship Policy

Date reviewed:	March 2009	Date of next review:	March 2010
Committee responsible for review of policy:	Curriculum	Linked policies:	Religious Education

Principles

1. As a school we aim to follow the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998
2. At Hook we understand Worship to mean:
 “Worship is a universal human activity which can be expressed as a growing ability to celebrate and reflect on things to be of worth. For many people, worship involves commitment to a belief in God. However, it can have a much broader and inclusive meaning. It can be a ‘form activity when we purposefully put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us’.”) *The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship*. G.H. Gorman).

 and

 “The reverence of veneration paid to a divine being or power”. (DFE1/94).
3. Collective Worship takes place in the whole school or class assemblies.
4. These acts of Collective Worship are an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled.
5. Collective Worship underpins all aspects of school life. This enables us to promote and share our philosophy, ethos and values.
6. Collective Worship develops the Pastoral, Social and Moral Education of our School.
7. Collective Worship is considered fundamental to expressing and forming who we are as a school and therefore all staff and children are encouraged to attend.

Aims

We aim to:

1. Develop spiritual and moral values and spiritual awareness.
2. Develop the knowledge of Christian values, celebrations, and patterns of worship.
3. Develop the right of children to explore their own belief as well as sharing a common ethos and values.
4. Develop an awareness of other religious, traditions, ceremonies, cultures and patterns of worship.

While awareness of other religions, traditions and beliefs may be raised, we recognize that the proper place for fuller exploration is in Religious Education.

Our Collective Worship provides a time:

1. For celebration and reflection on things held to be of worth.
2. To give an opportunity for children to worship God.
3. To develop a sense of community, of belonging and sharing.
4. For reflection and stillness.
5. To encourage pupils to learn how to be part of large and small gatherings as well as offering opportunities to perform and respond to presentation.
6. To celebrate special occasions and achievements.

Withdrawal

Parents may ask for their child/children to be totally or partially withdrawn from Collective Worship in accordance with the Education Act. They are advised of this right and asked to contact the headteacher to make arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal is recommended in Circular 1/94. Staff also have the right to withdraw.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(to be signed by Chair of Committee or Chair of Governors, once policy has been approved)

Attached: Practices and Procedures

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

1. The majority of acts of Collective Worship will be based on the broad principles and values of Christianity. The majority of themes explored will be appropriate to pupils whatever their background and personal beliefs, whether Christian or otherwise.
2. A collective act of Worship should provide opportunities to:
 - Focus on a particular issue by providing a stimulus.
 - Encourage reflection on the themes.
 - Respond in a variety of ways as appropriate, which may include prayers, singing, movement, experimenting stillness/thinking time.
 - Develop a sense of reverence, through the recognition, affirmation and celebration of worthiness of those values held to be of central importance to our community.
3. On occasion, collective worship will also cover such issues as school and national events. These will be planned as far ahead as possible, retaining the flexibility to respond to significant events in an appropriate manner.
4. Whole School collective worship will normally be led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. Class assemblies normally led by the class teacher.
5. Visitors to the school may occasionally lead assemblies e.g. Ministers, Governors and invited guests. Such visitors should be personally known or met beforehand and should be briefed on the school's requirements.
6. Provision will be made as necessary for children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship at their parents' request. Class Teachers and/or the Headteacher will discuss the matter sensitively with any parent who wishes to exercise their right to withdraw their child.
7. A variety of methods of presentation will be used to help stimulate and maintain the children's interest e.g. stories, poems, artefacts, movement/practical activity, pictures, videos/slides, discussion, remembering.
8. Music will be played for entering the assembly hall which acts as a stimulus and/or creates an atmosphere of calmness.
9. Children will be expected to enter and leave the hall quietly.