



Collective Worship Policy

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Reviewing committee:	Governing Body
Reviewers:	D. Stewart
Linked Policies:	Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy Religious Education Policy Equality Policy PSHE Policy Behaviour Policy SEND Policy Visitors Policy
Signed by Headteacher:	
Signed by Chair of Governors:	

1. Introduction

All state schools are required to make provision for a daily act of collective worship which follows the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Collective Worship takes place in the daily assembly which is non-denominational and broadly Christian. Assemblies are special occasions when achievements are celebrated, values underlined and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development recognised. The daily act of collective worship is a time of togetherness and reflection on values of importance to the school community. This may be as a whole school, a year group or as a class. Children are enabled to think about the importance of the school values in their own lives and this helps them to make positive choices. Assemblies also develop children's awareness of different cultures, religious beliefs, national days and global awareness days

2. Aims

We aim for collective worship to be a special time of togetherness where children have time to reflect, respond and revere. This offers a pause for reflection and stillness in the midst of the busyness of the school day.

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Hook Junior School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievement and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

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 recognise 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 explore and share beliefs
4. To consider spiritual and moral issues
5. To consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives
6. To develop a sense of community, of belonging and sharing
7. For reflection and stillness
8. To develop a sense of awe and wonder for the world around them
9. 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
10. To celebrate special occasions and achievements across cultures and members of our school community

3. Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools must provide daily collective worship for all registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). Daily collective worship: requirements and guidance.

The headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Daily collective

worship: requirements and guidance. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

Our worship is non-denominational and broadly Christian. It doesn't alienate pupils who don't come from Christian families or focus on one Christian denomination.

4. Exemptions from Christian worship

If Christian worship wouldn't be appropriate (for example, due to pupils' family backgrounds), the headteacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted. An application can be made for an exemption for a specific group or the whole school. Daily collective worship: requirements and guidance.

5. Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, classes 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.

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 of 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

And

- "The reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power" (DFE1/94)

6. Organisation

Collective worship takes place on the school premises. Acts of collective worship are carried out as a single class, a year group or as a whole school.

Collective worship takes place in the daily assembly. Assemblies are organised in a way which allows for class, year group and whole school acts of collective worship. The theme for the week is introduced in the Monday whole school assembly. Achievements and celebrations are recognised in the Friday assembly. On other days, acts of collective worship are carried out in classes or with the whole school in the hall.

6.1 Overview

Day	Assembly Type	Purpose
Monday	Whole School Assembly	Introduces our planned weekly theme or focus. Visitors are invited to this assembly, representing local organisations such as charities and local churches.
Tuesday	Singing Assembly	
Wednesday	Class Assembly	
Thursday	Whole School Assembly	Linked to our planned weekly theme or focus that children are introduced to at the beginning of the week.
Friday	Celebration Assembly	Celebration of what's been achieved in school such as an announcement of the house point totals for the week. A chance to celebrate and share the acts of those children who have been awarded certificates of achievement, star speaker and stars of the week.

6.2 Separating worship from assembly

We keep acts of worship separate in assemblies to allow time for pupils and teachers who don't wish to participate to leave the room before worship takes place. Our assemblies are structured so that:

- The first part covers announcements, celebrations, and theme introduction
- A clear transition signals the start of collective worship (e.g., lighting a candle, playing reflective music)
- Those who've withdrawn can leave at this point

7. Approach

The school's approach to collective worship is to offer an assembly which is non-denominational and broadly Christian, using a wide variety of resources and styles. We define 'broadly Christian' as having a careful selection of themes and approaches which is based on the broad principles and values of Christianity. These themes and approaches are appropriate to pupils whatever their background or personal beliefs, whether Christian or otherwise.

Children explore a theme each week. The themes are planned and organised on a termly basis by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The leading of collective worship is shared between staff on a rota basis. Visiting speakers are invited to lead worship too. Songs and hymns are also practised each week.

7.1 Visitors

All visitors who lead collective worship are:

- Subject to our standard safeguarding vetting procedures
- Briefed about the inclusive, non-denominational nature of our collective worship
- Informed about the diverse backgrounds of our pupils to ensure their contribution is appropriate and inclusive

7.2 Creating the right atmosphere

To help children recognise this important time, teachers aim to create a calm atmosphere with a sense of specialness. This may be through the use of candles, special objects and/or quiet music.

At the end of collective worship children are offered 'reflection time'. This is an opportunity for children to self-reflect about the key messages from the assembly.

7.3 Reflection time typically lasts 2-3 minutes and includes:

- Quiet background music
- Gentle prompts such as "You might like to think about how you could show kindness today..." or "Consider what this story means for you..."
- An invitation: "During reflection time, if you pray, you may wish to talk to your God. If you don't pray, you can simply think quietly about what we've discussed"
- Respect for all children, whether they have a faith, are exploring faith, or have no religious belief

Children are also invited to participate in singing which may take the form of a hymn or a non-religious song. We hope that our approach to collective worship will enable all children to reflect, revere and respond.

8. Responsibilities

8.1 Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

The headteacher has the right to withdraw from an act of daily collective worship, but still has a duty to organise it. If the headteacher chooses to withdraw, another member of staff will be asked to deliver the act of collective worship, or someone external may be recruited for this purpose.

8.2 Teaching Staff

Teachers cannot be forced to lead or attend an act of collective worship. While we encourage all staff to participate in collective worship as it supports the school's values system, we recognise that teachers have the right to withdraw. Staff who wish to withdraw should discuss this with the headteacher.

These acts of Collective Worship are an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled. Collective Worship underpins all aspects of school life. This enables us to promote and share our philosophy, ethos and values. Collective Worship

develops the pastoral, social, cultural and moral education of our children's personal development.

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.

9. Withdrawal

9.1 Pupil 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 in writing to discuss arrangements. No reasons have to be given but discussion with parents over the issues concerning withdrawal is recommended.

To avoid misunderstandings, we will discuss with parents, or ask them to put in writing:

- The elements of worship they would object to
- Whether they will allow the pupil to be present during the collective worship, but not take part
- What the child should be doing if they can't be present during the collective worship

9.2 Arrangements for withdrawn pupils:

The school will ensure that children withdrawn are safe and supervised. Specifically:

- Withdrawn pupils will be supervised in [insert location, e.g., the library/a designated classroom]
- They will engage in quiet reading or other appropriate educational activities
- Parents can take their children off school premises for alternative worship as long as this does not interfere with the child's education

The school cannot withdraw pupils from collective worship for any reason.

9.3 Staff Withdrawal

Staff also have the right to withdraw from collective worship, as outlined in the 'Responsibilities' section above.

9.4 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the governing body.

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring statutory requirements for collective worship are met. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) monitors the quality and planning of collective worship.

The governing body will receive updates on collective worship through the headteacher's report.