



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

1 Aims and objectives

- 1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
 - To enable children to explore their own beliefs
 - To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
 - To encourage participation and response
 - To develop in children a sense of community spirit
 - To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
 - To teach children to worship
 - To meet the requirements of the Education Reform Act, in that much of the content should be 'broadly Christian' and not 'specifically or typically or uniquely Christian'.

2 Collective Worship

- 2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.
- 2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.
- 2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and wider community.

3 Organisation of Collective Worship

- 3.1 We hold an act of collective worship in our school on four days each week. This forms part of each assembly- whole school assemblies on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and key stage assemblies on Mondays or Thursdays.
- 3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm and reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully and participate fully in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using magic and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.3 The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies but sometimes we have guest speakers instead. Additionally each class will lead an assembly during the year.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from a variety of sources including the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics we teach as part of the school curriculum and the religions within our school community.

3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Haslam Park Primary school is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

3.6 We invite parents to join us for assemblies taken by the children and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4 Right of withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The head teacher keeps a record of all the children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring and review

5.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for Religious Education and Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.