



Collective Worship Policy

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

Written by: Laura Thomas (DHT)

Date: 3rd March 2024

Governors Signed

Date:

Staff Signed

Date:

Next Review Date: Spring 2027

Collective Acts of Worship

The Collective Worship Policy at Hatch Warren Junior School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the local authority through SACRE. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 Education Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths to complement the faiths practised by our children.

The Collective Worship Policy is consistent with the vision and values of the school as expressed on our school website. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Definition of Collective Worship

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. 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.

Aims of Collective Worship for the School

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Hatch Warren Junior School. It is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

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

Aims of Collective Worship for the Pupils

Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Allow believers an opportunity to worship God
- Provide an opportunity for the children to reflect on the wonder, mystery and worries of existence
- Enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- Enable children to explore their own beliefs
- Introduce aspects of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and celebrations
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reflect on what it means to be human
- Encourage participation and response
- Develop in children a sense of community spirit
- Reflect on the direction of their lives
- Promote a common ethos with shared values
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Recognise celebration and affirm achievements.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to Aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct to curriculum time. However, at Hatch Warren Junior School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum. This will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work completed in class. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources, and provide pupils with the opportunity to respond at their own level.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold daily acts of Collective Worship at Hatch Warren Junior School. These acts can be held in the school hall, the music room or the classroom dependent on whether these are whole school, upper school/lower school, year group or class assemblies. Assemblies should last no longer than 15 minutes.

Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way – they are expected to be a time of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect the children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, and to listen carefully to the teaching, participating fully. Acts of Collective Worship will end with a time for reflection. Where a prayer is said, children are invited to join in and be respectful of others if they choose not to pray. A candle may be used to focus reflection if this is the wish of the member of staff who is delivering the assembly.

Collective Worship begins and ends with a piece of music to support reflection. We have a ‘Musician of the Month’ which enables children to listen to and learn about music from a range of genres, countries, cultures and traditions.

Every member of the teaching staff, and occasionally visitors, will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point during the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly assembly rotas are created by the Deputy Headteacher and will include a range of themes, special occasions and events. These will be flexible to allow for the inclusion of current and topical issues.

We take the majority of the themes for our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, such as honesty, kindness, community, belonging, acceptance, special and love. Acts of worship often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Some themes build on topics that are taught as part of the school’s PSHE curriculum and link to the school’s work on children’s mental health. Our assembly themes also mirror our school’s vision and values and enable us to develop the pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles, including 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. A variety of resources will also be used. Staff will choose the style, method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and background of the pupils.

A Collective Act of Worship should provide opportunities to:

- Focus on a particular theme or value which has been identified as part of the planned programme. We do recognise the need for flexibility and allow space for the spontaneous.
- Reflect on the theme
- Respond in a variety of ways such as:
 - Prayer (children are invited to join in if they wish or remain silent for personal reflection as we make no assumption about personal beliefs)
 - Singing
 - Role play
 - Listening to stories
 - Experiencing thinking time
 - Discussion
 - Question and answer
 - Producing and sharing information
 - Celebration
- Develop a sense of reverence – we aim to achieve this over a period of time through the recognition, affirmation and celebration of worthiness of those values held to be of central importance to our community.

Right of Withdrawal

Under the 1988 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or parts of collective worship. It is a legal requirement that all children attend unless their parents have exercised the right to withdraw. Children who are withdrawn are supervised and suitably occupied. Parents who wish to exercise the right to withdraw their children should speak to the Head teacher.