

Hunton & Arrathorne Community Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Date: May 2021	Headteacher: Mr S Donaldson
Review Date: May 2023	Chair of Governors: Mr P Barber

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character” for the majority of the time. They must also be “appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils”.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- 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 how to worship.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship in school has a very specific definition. A school community is not a worshipping community and the law recognises this by requiring “collective” not “corporate” worship. Broadly, worship in school is more appropriately referred to as worth-ship. This might encompass what is offered in a spirit of admiration, celebration and respect to God and/or people of excellence, worthy of honour and by extension to concepts, principles and conduct which are worthy of celebration as examples of the highest achievements of the human spirit.

Worship defined in this way draws on literature, music, art, drama and other sources of inspiration and reflection for pupils and staff whose religious and cultural backgrounds are of any faith or none. In this way collective worship is inclusive not exclusive.

Worship of a broadly Christian character

The majority of acts of worship must be of a “broadly Christian character”, and those that are must reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being denominational.

Organisation

In our school we combine our acts of worship with assembly, helping to ensure that worship takes place within a broad educational framework. Assemblies will take place in a classroom or outside, alternatively virtual assemblies may be held.

On a Monday, Wednesday and Friday we gather as a whole school community for assembly and worship. On a Tuesday and Thursday, assemblies are class based.

Monday (2.45pm)	Vision & Values
Tuesday	Tuesday Newscast (Current Affairs)
Wednesday (9.10am)	Singing Assembly & Worship
Thursday	Thursday Thought
Friday (2.45pm)	Celebration Assembly

Assemblies may be led by the Headteacher or other members of staff. Children lead aspects and parts of our assemblies and worship and we invite members of the wider community to come into school to share in our assemblies and acts of worship when appropriate.

Content

In order to make our assemblies interesting, engaging and thought provoking, we use a variety of strategies including:

- Pupil’s contributions
- Sacred and secular stories/readings
- Dance/drama
- Prayer/meditation/songs/hymns/music

- Artefacts/natural materials
- Visual aids/focal points
- Dialogue/creative silence
- Visitors

Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of Collective Worship. Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Monitoring

The provision of our assemblies and worship will be monitored by the pupils and, as part of ongoing evaluation of our curriculum, by subject leaders. Governors are always welcome to join us for assemblies and acts of worship.