



## Collective Worship Policy

<b>Date Reviewed:</b>	March 2022
<b>Next Review:</b>	March 2024
<b>Reviewing committee:</b>	FGB
<b>Reviewers:</b>	B Hilton and J Carne
<b>Linked Policies:</b>	Religious Education Complaints

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.

## **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 the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives.
5. To develop a sense of community, of belonging and sharing.
6. For reflection and stillness.
7. To develop a sense of awe and wonder for the world around them.
8. 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.
9. To celebrate special occasions and achievements across cultures and members of our school community.

## Statutory Duty of School

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those who have been withdrawn by their parents). This is usually provided within a daily assembly (the guidance on collective worship contained within Circular 1/94 remains current).

The head teacher 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. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the head teacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

1. As a school we aim to follow the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998
2. At Hook Junior School we understand Worship to mean:
  - a. 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'

And

  - b. "The reverence of veneration paid to a divine being or power".  
(DFE1/94).
3. Collective Worship takes place daily in school, either as a whole school or as a class assembly.
4. We believe that all teaching staff has the responsibility to deliver collective worship, thus supporting the school's values system
5. These acts of Collective Worship are an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which all our children are entitled.
6. Collective Worship underpins all aspects of school life. This enables us to promote and share our philosophy, ethos and values.
7. Collective Worship develops the Pastoral, Social, Cultural and Moral Education of our children's personal development.
8. 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.

## **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 in Circular 1/94. The school will ensure that the children withdrawn are safe and supervised but will not provide alternative collective worship. 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.

Staff also have the right to withdraw.

## **Organisation**

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.

## **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 RE leader.

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.

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. During reflection time children are offered the opportunity to talk or pray to their God if they have one. 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.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

We will review this policy every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.