

Hills Grove Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship Policy
Written January 2025
Review January 2027

Principal

Ms K Laurie

1 AIMS

In line with the Educational Reform Act (1988), we at Hills Grove recognise that the act of Collective Worship makes an essential contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils which we are seeking to promote in every aspect of our school life. With that acknowledgement in mind, the aims of our policy for Collective Worship are as follows:

- We will provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- Opportunities will be offered to pay reverence to a supreme being or power whilst acknowledging the presence of children who do not necessarily hold beliefs in common.
- We will seek to maintain the broad traditions of Christian belief without emphasis on any particular denomination.
- We will provide an opportunity for all to feel involved and valued with equal opportunities afforded to all.
- Opportunity will be created to allow children time to reflect on spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs.
- Time for reflection and quiet will be afforded in a situation that is special and separate from other school activities.
- We will share with our children extracts from sacred texts or other writings with a religious theme.
- The act of Collective Worship will support our values as a community and promote a common ethos.
- Achievements will be celebrated and positive attitudes will be reinforced.
- A variety of activities and methods of presentation will be encountered.
- We will seek to introduce a range of festivals and beliefs reflecting the diversity of culture in our community.

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 faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

2.3 While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3 ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

3.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship. This may be:

- Whole school together in the hall
- A key stage or Phase together in the hall
- Specific year groups in the hall
- Individual year groups in the hall
- Class Assemblies

3.2 The member of staff leading the assembly will prepare a piece of music for pupils and staff to listen to as they enter the hall

3.3 Assemblies are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. The pupils learn that this is a period of calm reflection. It is regarded as a special time. Pupils will enter the hall quietly and calmly, sitting down without talking to show they are ready to listen and understand that this is a special time of gathering.

3.4 At the end of the assembly, pupils will wait quietly until it is their turn to leave the hall.

3.6 Assemblies are normally taken by members of staff and/or groups of pupils but are sometimes taken by other visitors. A record of the content is maintained in the 'Collective Worship' file.

3.7 Assembly themes each half term link from SCW Pals, Perseverance and Plundering Pirates. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies are related to topics that are taught as part of the school curriculum. Assemblies are planned in advance of the day they take place.

3.8 Achievement assemblies are chaired by Year 6 in KS2 and Teaching Staff in EYFS/KS1. These assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the pupils. Pupils participate in these assemblies by talking about their achievement and sharing their success with the school community and invited guests. These assemblies provide an opportunity to celebrate pupils achievements both in and out of school, all pupils are valued and all achievements are recognised. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school. *'Our purpose is to foster an enthusiasm for learning.'*

3.9 Each class takes responsibility for leading an act of Collective Worship at least once a year. Themes are drawn from a wide variety of sources and provide a very strong link with other areas of the curriculum. This also provides an opportunity to share our Collective Worship with the invited parents of the class involved. We encourage this attendance, as this promotes community spirit and shows the school and home working together to support and celebrate the pupils' learning and achievements.

3.10 Harvest, Christmas and Easter are planned and led by the pupils in a particular year group and guests are invited to share in these celebrations.

3.11 Visitors are also invited to lead our assemblies either to share their personal experiences or to provide the background and impetus to our regular Charity Appeals. This helps pupils to be aware of the needs of others in the wider community. All visitors are briefed in order to ensure that their contributions are consistent with the school's policy.

3.12 Festivals and celebrations from a range of cultures are fitted into the programme at appropriate times of the year. These are included to appraise our pupils of the wealth of cultures in this country and around the world and to introduce them to a range of celebrations and worship

A flexible programme is planned giving attention to a range of activities and maintaining a balance between music, art, dance, drama, story, and, very importantly, silence and opportunity for prayer and reflection. In addition to this we aim to provide questions or ideas and thoughts for pupils to reflect upon outside the act of Collective Worship. This again shows the strong links with other areas of the curriculum and our school ethos.

4 RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

4.1 Pupils are expected to attend assembly. However, any parent who so wishes may request permission for their child to be withdrawn from religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil/s during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for the request. The right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act and was reinstated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

5 RESOURCES

5.1 There is a varied and accessible range of resource material available for Collective Worship, the funding for which is part of the RE budget. These resources are in the Resource Room and include books and stories from different World Religions, poetry compilations, radio broadcasts, posters, religious artefacts, music, books appropriate for worship and CDs.

5.2 Resources are allocated within the 'Curriculum Bid' procedure and INSET is provided within the policy of the Staff Development Plan and School Improvement Plan. Both are dependent on identified needs and financial constraints.

6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Preparation and Delivery

6.1 The content and statutory requirements are consistent and planned throughout the school. In addition, records of themes and content are held by the Curriculum Leader to ensure continuity and development and a focus on broad Christian issues. This ensures that regular monitoring can occur with the Curriculum Leader reporting back to the Senior Management Team when necessary.

6.2 The regular involvement of pupils is part of our school tradition and, therefore, is regularly monitored as part of whole school monitoring system.

6.3 Pupils are helped to think deeply about issues raised by follow up activities and questions, classroom discussion and involvement in our regular Charity Appeals.

7 EVALUATION

7.1 The contribution that Collective Worship makes to the school's ethos and the enrichment of our pupils' experience is difficult to quantify. However, as a staff we regularly report back on school issues and consider the effect we, as a school, make on our pupils. Where there is an area that we feel requires strengthening or renewed focus, this will be suggested as a theme for development. Evaluation then is more tangible as we observe the impact both in class and in relationships throughout the school.

7.2 Statutory requirements become part of the school routine and are noted by Senior Management and the Curriculum Leader. The effect on our pupils is noted by all staff as part of the school ethos.

7.3 Some children are withdrawn from Collective Worship. We are also aware of and make suitable provision for, those children when celebrations or special events/issues are explored as part of the regular curriculum.

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years

Approved by Governors: To be agreed April 2025

For Review: January 2027

PROGRAMME FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

EYFS and KEY STAGE 1

MONDAY	KEY STAGE 1 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP: CANTEEN Year 1 Year 2
TUESDAY	CLASS PRESENTATION : CANTEEN Or individual Class Assembly (CLASSROOM) Year 1 Year 2
WEDNESDAY	KEY STAGE SINGING ASSEMBLY (CANTEEN) Year 1 Year 2
THURSDAY	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY - (CANTEEN) Celebration of learning and achievement PARENTS/CARERS invited Reception Year 1 Year 2
FRIDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (HALL) Reception Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6

KEY STAGE 2

MONDAY	KEY STAGE 1 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP: HALL Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6
TUESDAY	CLASS PRESENTATION : HALL Or individual Class Assembly (CLASSROOM) Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6
WEDNESDAY	KEY STAGE SINGING ASSEMBLY (HALL) Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6
THURSDAY	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY - (HALL) Celebration of learning and achievement PARENTS/CARERS invited Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6
FRIDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (HALL) Reception Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6