



## Collective Worship Policy

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An academy within:



“Learning together; to be the best we can be”



# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Our Collective Worship aims to promote spiritual, moral and cultural development and encourages our students to reflect on their own and others beliefs. This links with British values, positive self-image, wellbeing and our whole school curriculum from 2-19.
- 1.2. This policy is in line with the schools' philosophy that all children have the right to be 'the best that they can be' and is deeply rooted in the schools' values. This policy details the ethos and philosophy in relation to collective worship at Hilltop School.

# 2. Objectives

- 2.1. At Hilltop School pupils will be given the opportunity to join in an act of collective worship at least monthly through our 'Proud' assemblies. Throughout each week there will be opportunities for reflection and celebration in class groups. At some point in each school day each class experiences 'review and reflect' time where the pupils share their thoughts and days experiences.
- 2.2. At Hilltop School the pupils will gather together for an assembly. On these occasions the school will assemble as a community, which will include time to consider and celebrate aspects of the spiritual dimension of life, reflecting the varied beliefs and experiences of the pupils and teachers. There will be some personal space to be quiet, to think and to reflect. Worship at Hilltop School will reflect something special, taking into account the work we embrace with our pupils in developing their social, emotional, spiritual and cultural well-being. The pupils will be supported to engage in this, reflective to their level of understanding.
- 2.3. During assemblies pupils are encouraged to participate and share work or showcase a performance, supported by the school community where all pupils are encouraged to participate.



## 3. Legal Requirement

- 3.1. By law we must arrange for RE to be given to all pupils in accordance with the requirements for agreed syllabuses that are set out in section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph 5 of schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. That is, it must reflect that 'the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'.
- 3.2. We would expect that every pupil in a special school, should attend collective worship (unless withdrawn by their parents or carers) so far as it is practicable. It should be recognised that it is the inward response of each person present that constitutes worship and not the repetition of songs and prayers.
- 3.3. Beliefs and values which are both 'broadly Christian' and important to our school community include: respect, trust, fairness, understanding, tolerance, appreciation, responsibility, caring, co-operation, patience, peace, difference, honesty, courage, freedom, quality, friendship, humility, happiness, thoughtfulness. Through basing Collective Worship upon these themes the spiritual, moral and cultural awareness of each pupil may be developed in a way that allows all pupils to take part and equip them to be part of society.
- 3.4. There will be varying degrees of explicit or implicit reference to Christianity or any of the other main faiths. The diversity of religious belief and practice amongst the pupils at Hilltop School will be represented in the act of collective worship.

## 4. Aims

- 4.1. To celebrate things of worth in the school and community.
- 4.2. To explore moral, spiritual and social issues.
- 4.3. To share ideas, beliefs and opinions.
- 4.4. To create understanding towards each other, the community and the nature of beliefs in our pluralistic society.
- 4.5. To support pupils to develop and understanding of achievement and pride.
- 4.6. To reflect the real life needs of our pupils.
- 4.7. To give time for silent reflection and inner space.



## 5. Delivery

- 5.1. Collective Worship and assemblies are not the same thing, but it is usual for collective worship to take place during an assembly. It is a special time for all present to reflect upon their life experiences and seek awareness to ultimate questions as far as they are able.
- 5.2. Collective worship will take place in the classroom most days of the week and in the school hall at other times.

## 6. Expectations for Assembly

- 6.1. The member of staff taking the assembly should be the first one there and have music playing and preparations made ready for the pupils to arrive. They will be supported by members of the Leadership Team. Staff bringing the pupils should ensure that they are calm and quiet as they reach the doors to the assembly venue. The pupils should enter and sit down quietly with their class group.
- 6.2. Staff are expected to model good listening behaviour. Pupils will be expected to participate appropriately in assemblies. Staff should encourage this, through the assemblies they prepare and in their own responses. Pupils will be encouraged to join in with the activities. The member of staff leading the assembly will ensure that guidance is given for the pupils to leave in an orderly manner.
- 6.3. Regular 'Proud' assemblies focus on individual pupils' achievements and promote positive self-image through certificates, recognition of individual/class achievement and slide show of most students. This supports the development of SEMH and pride in the school community. All pupils are encouraged to celebrate the achievement of others.

## 7. Expectations for 'Review and Reflect'

During 'Review and Reflect' time at the end of the day for class based collective worship. The class teacher will:



- 7.1. Ensure that the classroom environment is calm.
- 7.2. Ensure that pupils are focused and present for the gathering.
- 7.3. Organise teaching assistants so that the classroom remains calm and as quiet as possible for the duration of the gathering.
- 7.4. Teaching assistants should not be undertaking routine personal care tasks during this time.
- 7.5. Use resources as appropriate to enable all pupils to participate.
- 7.6. Allow time for pupils to experience a period of reflection, quiet and/or stillness.

## 8. Resource Management

- 8.1. There are many resources available for teachers to use. There are resources from the Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist and Jewish faiths available for use.
- 8.2. All assembly books and other literature required for implementing the collective worship scheme for work are readily available.
- 8.3. Pupil reference materials and stories are available.
- 8.4. Other stories relating to life experiences are available in the library.
- 8.5. There is a wide variety of world music and religious music can be found in the appropriate box of religious artefacts.
- 8.6. Refer to the RE subject leader for any additional resources.

## 9. Health and Safety

- 9.1. It is the responsibility of the lead teacher to ensure the health and safety of all pupils and staff.
- 9.2. Teachers should:
  - Take responsibility for recognising hazards in a range of products, activities and environments.
  - Use information sources to assess the risk of new materials and experiences.
  - Manage the environment and take control of any possible risk.



## 10. Parent / Carer involvement

- 10.1. All students are required to attend collective worship.
- 10.2. Any parent / carer wishing to exclude their son/daughter, from collective worship on moral or religious grounds, can do so following discussions with the Headteacher.
- 10.3. Pupils, who are withdrawn from Collective Worship, will undertake work planned by their teacher with a member of staff in a separately.