

# **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**September 2023**

**Hollyfield Primary School**



<b>Version:</b>	September 2023
<b>Ratified by the Governing Body:</b>	20 September 2023
<b>Signed by the Governing Body:</b>	
<b>To be reviewed (annually):</b>	September 2024

## **Aims**

Acts of collective worship provide opportunities for the school community of diverse individuals from different family and faith backgrounds to meet together. In order to develop this aim, acts of collective worship should:

- promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of the pupils;
- be consonant with the aims of the school;
- be quality learning opportunities relevant to the pupils' experience;
- foster a sense of group identity and provide experiences of being part of a community, sharing the values of the school;
- provide a time for reflection on spiritual and moral issues and values, pausing from immediate concerns to consider fundamental questions and the importance of religious beliefs of those who hold them;
- provide opportunities for pupils to consider and explore their own beliefs and those of other people;
- promote respect for the integrity of individuals and faiths;
- provide opportunities for pupils to worship if they so wish;
- encourage participation and response, for example, through active involvement or listening;
- provide opportunities to celebrate such things as achievement and special occasions, and to share feelings such as thankfulness, joy, friendship, sadness or hope.

## **Principles**

Collective worship should be:

### **Educational**

- it is governed by the same educational criteria that apply to other educational activities in school; collective worship should be effectively planned and delivered;
- it reflects and enhances the school curriculum;
- it provides schools with opportunities to reflect on their own educational purpose;
- it must not consist of evangelism or indoctrination, both of which are inappropriate in an educational setting.

### **Inclusive**

- all members of the school community perceive the relevance of the activity even though levels of participation, involvement, affirmation and challenge may vary;
- the presenter of recipients are not placed in a less than an honest position;

- collective worship is in accordance with the LA and school policies on equal opportunities.

## **Spiritual**

- it has a distinctive intention – making time and space within the day to consider and reflect on values, beliefs and feelings which may lead to worship;
- it evokes senses such as beauty, wonder, awe, pride, stillness, peace etc;
- it reflects the ethos of the school.

## **Legal Requirements**

1. All pupils should take part in an act of collective worship on each school day.
2. There may be a single act of collective worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups.

The school has flexibility in deciding the time and groups for collective worship. This does not have to be the same each day.

3. The Headteacher, after consultation with the Governing Board, is responsible for the arrangements for collective worship.

The responsibility is for the arrangements for collective worship. Headteachers retain their right to withdraw from participation in, and leadership of, acts of collective worship.

4. Acts of collective worship must take place on the school premises.
5. Taken over a school term, the majority of acts of collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. They should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.
  - It is not necessary for every act of collective worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character;
  - An act of collective worship may be mainly of a broadly Christian character without being exclusively Christian;
  - On specific occasions collective worship may reflect on particular faith.
6. Acts of collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils.
  - Where SACRE determine, following the request of the Headteacher, that it is not possible to reconcile this requirement with requirement 5 above, a determination may be granted which lifts requirement 5. A determination does not lift the other legal requirements regarding collective worship.

7. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all acts of collective worship.
- The parent does not have to give a reason for this request;
  - The school retains responsibility for the pupils' health and safety;
  - Arrangements may be made to provide facilities for alternative worship for pupils withdrawn from collective worship on the school premises. These arrangements must not by law entail any expenditure from the school budget;
  - The parents who withdraw their children from the school's provision may make arrangements for their children to receive religious education in accordance with their wishes off the school premises, provided that the responsible authority (ie. the Governing Body in Community Schools and Foundation, Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools without a religious character with a delegated budget) is satisfied that this does not interfere with the pupils' attendance at school, other than at the beginning or end of the school day. However, this flexibility is not extended to provision for collective worship.
8. All teachers (including the Headteacher) retain the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship.
- This right does not apply to assembly. An assembly is a gathering of the school, or part of it, for any purpose, for example to share information or give instructions. An act of collective worship may form part of an assembly;
  - A reason does not have to be given;
  - With certain exceptions for teachers in schools with a religious character, teachers must not be discriminated against as a result of their withdrawal from collective worship;
  - While Headteachers in Community Schools and Foundation, Voluntary Aided and Voluntary Controlled Schools without a religious character may withdraw from participation in and leadership of collective worship, they remain responsible for the arrangements for collective worship.
9. The school must publish its arrangements for collective worship in the school prospectus.

## **Co-ordination**

The Headteacher, after consultation with the Governing Board, is responsible for the arrangements for collective worship. Collective worship requires co-ordination, which should form part of the job description of a member of staff. It should not be assumed that the co-ordination of collective worship necessarily falls within the remit of staff involved in delivering Religious Education.

## **Organisation**

Collective worship may take place at any time in the school day, though it is not included in calculations of the amount of curriculum time provided by the school. The school is free to choose the length of time given to collective worship – there are no recommendations regarding its duration. There may be a single whole school act of collective worship or separate acts of collective worship for pupils in different age groups, e.g. year groups or key stages, or in different school groups, e.g. individual classes. Arrangements may vary of different days of the week.

Any member of staff, pupil, governor, parent or other visitor may be invited to lead acts of collective worship if they agree to do so. All leaders of collective worship should be aware of the aims and principles of collective worship in a school context, and agreement with the school and LEA policies on equal opportunities. Regardless of the leadership of collective worship, the school remains responsible for the health and safety of pupils.

In Hollyfield the content varies to include story or poem, time for reflection or prayer as appropriate, music as needed. Hymns may be sung as required. We have a number of visiting leaders for collective worship mostly of Christian background.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Provision for collective worship should be effectively monitored and evaluated. This is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

As a result of monitoring, the issues of resourcing and staff development may need to be addressed and may form part of the School Improvement Plan.

At Hollyfield Primary School, Staff and Governors are committed to the safety and welfare of all pupils and will ensure that through the robust implementation of all safeguarding policies, that all pupils are protected from any potential exposure to extremism and radicalisation.

We will ensure that all our pupils, especially those with SEND will be fully supported academically and socially to ensure that no pupil is at risk of bullying or any other form of discrimination.