

Policy for

Collective Worship

Helmingham Community Primary School

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Approved by:

Date of approval:

To be reviewed February 2015

Collective Worship Policy

1. Rationale: In drawing up this policy, we have followed the Suffolk SACRE advice on “assemblies for collective worship,” namely that they should:-

- Promote the school’s sense of community
- Be inclusive, enabling all members of the school to participate with honesty and freedom
- Be consistent with the school’s aims and philosophy and with the ideals and values pursued by the school
- Respect the family or cultural background of the members of the school community
- Fulfil the spirit of the law
- Ensure that the pupils have an educational experience of the highest quality

2. Aims and Purpose:

To enable pupils to-

- share an act of worship that is *mainly* of a broadly Christian character
- reflect on a range of issues and views
- recognise similarities between Christianity, different religious faiths and the humanist perspective
- gain some awareness of how beliefs, ideas and values may differ
- affirm and celebrate shared values and aspirations
- gain awareness of what constitutes a “good life” and how this may be realised
- respond to questions and shared discussion on local and global issues
- develop spiritually, morally and culturally
- explore their own beliefs
- have the opportunity to pray or reflect, as is appropriate

3. Organisation of collective worship:

3.1 A daily act of worship is held within the **whole-school or class assembly**.

3.2 We ensure that assemblies and collective worship are conducted in a respectful way; children are aware that this is a special time. Music is used to create a calm atmosphere; candles and artefacts are sometimes used to further enhance this. Children have the opportunity to listen, reflect and respond to stories, readings and other input; prayers and hymns are used sensitively.

3.3 Assemblies and collective worship are normally led by the Headteacher and teaching staff. We also have visitors to enrich our provision; these include local clergy and other members of the local and wider community.

3.4 Assembly themes are based mainly on the Christian faith, often reflecting festivals and faiths in the Christian calendar. Other themes may focus on topics within the school curriculum, local and global events. In line with our aims, we also draw on stories and beliefs from other cultures, providing pupils with a balanced, realistic overview of religion. A comprehensive plan of assembly topics is drawn up at the start of each term.

3.5 As part of our assembly and collective worship, we encourage children to share and reflect on their successes and achievements. We have regular sharing assemblies, providing the platform for children to show their work and explain what they have been learning in class. Collective worship, on these occasions, serves to reinforce the school ethos of valuing individuals and celebrating success. Parents are invited to these assemblies, where they too can acknowledge the children’s achievements and share in an act of collective worship.

3.6 Members of the Governing Body are also invited to attend assemblies and collective worship, strengthening their role on the school.

4. Right of withdrawal

4.1 All children are expected to attend assembly and the integral act of worship. Parents do, however, have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from the collective worship element (no reason has to be provided); the school is then responsible for making arrangements for the supervision of that child during that time.

4.2 Staff also have the right to request that they do not attend (and therefore lead) collective worship.

6. Equal Opportunities

Equal opportunity is a fundamental right for all children regardless of, for example, gender, race, cultural or social background, religious beliefs, physical characteristics or educational needs. All children at Helmingham C P School will have an equal access to all areas of the curriculum.

5. Monitoring and review

The named governor, with responsibility for religious education and collective worship, monitors the school policy and practice on collective worship. The governor liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the full governing body.