



***“We want everyone at Hillingdon Primary School to be happy, caring and independent.
Our school is a place where we learn together, doing our best to achieve success.”***

Collective Worship Policy **Reviewed March 2016**

1. THE LAW IN ENGLAND AND WALES

An Academy’s Funding Agreement is drafted to mirror the requirements for acts of Collective Worship in maintained schools. Each pupil must take part in a daily act of Collective Worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves. This applies to Academies with and without a religious designation. Collective Worship may be provided within daily assembly but the distinction should be made clear.

The Head teacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the Local 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. It is acceptable for schools to split the collective worship sessions over the school year to be 51 per cent Christian and 49 per cent other faiths or interests.

Most schools should be able to include all pupils in their act of Collective Worship. There may be exceptional cases, however, where, in view of the family background of some or all pupils, the Head teacher and Local Governing Body feel that a broadly Christian act of worship is not suitable. In these circumstances, the Head teacher can apply to the Education Funding Agency, via the Secretary of State, to have the Christian content requirement lifted. Before doing so, the Local Governing Body should consult the parents of pupils at the school.

Collective worship can take place at any time in the school day and the whole school does not need to get together at the same time. Collective worship can be organised into form groups or year groups or whatever is appropriate for the school. It cannot be organised in faith groups unless a determination has been sought and granted by the local SACRE.

Information taken from the Department for Education’s Guidance on Religious Education in Academies

2. AIMS AND PURPOSE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- To provide children with the opportunity to worship God.
- To gain a better understanding of other religions represented in our school community.
- To understand value and principles common to different religions.
- To allow children to explore their own beliefs.
- To provide a time each day where children can think, listen, share and reflect.
- To promote and embed the school’s community ethos.
- To enable the children to reflect on a range of issues in the wider worlds.
- To allow children to play an active role in worship and reflection.
- To involve parents and the wider community in the school community.

3. ORGANISATION

- a) KS1 and KS2 assembly including collective worship twice a week.
- b) Celebration assembly once a week.
- c) Class reflection once a week.
- d) Singing assembly once a week for both KS1 and KS2.

a) Key Stage One and Two Assemblies

These assemblies may involve a story, visitor, music, a game or role play related to the current theme or to a particular religious festival which is happening at the time. These provide a chance for the children to gather as a community and recognise shared values as well as those that differ.

b) Celebration Assembly

This takes place every Friday for Key Stage one and two and is led by the head teacher or a senior member of staff. Children's successes and achievements are shared and celebrated during this time, together with a moment of reflection.

c) Class Reflection Time

Once a week collective worship takes place in the classroom. The collective worship can refer to the theme or something relevant to the children that day. It should be flexible to allow for children's issues or questions to be taken into consideration. Each class will also discuss topic issues and events on a daily basis. These reflection times could incorporate thinking, listening, sharing and reflection upon common values and principles.

4. THE CONTRIBUTION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TO ASPECTS OF THE CURRICULUM

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Hillingdon Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work completed in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

5. WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Hillingdon Primary school, we strive to meet the spiritual needs of all children in an inclusive environment however all children and staff have the right to withdraw from daily collective worship. The request should be made in writing to the Head teacher, who will arrange a meeting to discuss any particular concerns the individual may have and practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

*Reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee on 8th March 2016
Ratified by the Local Governing Body on 22nd March 2016*

Signed: Date:

*Miss Janet Bramwell
Chair of the Local Governing Body*