



Houghton Primary School

Working hard to achieve our best

Collective Worship Policy

Date reviewed and adopted:	July 2021
Signed: Headteacher	
Date of next review:	Summer 2022



Introduction

Collective worship in schools should take place daily and 'aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.'

'Worship' is not defined in the legislation, (but)... it must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.'

However, worship in schools will necessarily be of a different character from worship amongst a group with beliefs in common. The legislation reflects this difference in referring to 'collective worship' rather than 'corporate worship'.

'Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. Although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two should be clear... 'Taking part' in collective worship implies more than simply passive attendance. It follows that an act of collective worship should be capable of eliciting a response from pupils, even though on a particular occasion some of the pupils may not feel able actively to identify with the act of worship.'

Collective Worship in Schools, DfE, 1994

Aims

The aim of Houghton Primary School's collective worship policy is to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Participate and respond to the worship of God, a divine being or power which is offered.

Statutory Duty of School

Houghton Primary School provides daily collective worship for registered pupils.

We recognise that parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education (RE) and collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE or collective worship at the school the school will comply unless the request is withdrawn.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship, but can delegate the leading of worship to other members of staff.

Daily collective worship at Houghton Primary School is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. It is planned and the precise nature depends on the background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

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Policy

Collective Worship at Houghton Primary School is usually provided within a daily assembly. Assemblies may be whole school, key stage, class or group events.

Implementation

Collective worship, whether in a Whole School, Key Stage or Class Assembly, will:

- Be planned;
- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils;
- Include a variety of elements at different times;
- Invite the pupils to participate.

Worship may be through the sharing of a prayer or by asking children to think or reflect specifically about something. Worship may also take place through singing.

When a prayer to God is used as the form of worship the invitation to the children will be verbalised as follows;

“We are now going to pray. I ask everyone to sit quietly with their hands in their laps and listen to the words of the prayer. You may wish to close your eyes when you listen. If you would like to make this prayer your own, please join us by saying ‘amen’ at the end. If you do not wish to make this prayer your own, please be respectful of those who do, sitting quietly and giving others time to listen and think.”

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy every 3 years. Governors will assess its implementation and effectiveness by reviewing plans for collective worship, attending assemblies and speaking with staff and children.

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

July 2021

Next review: Summer 2024