



**Hazel Grove Primary School**

# **Collective Worship Policy**

**December 2015**

**DATE POLICY APPROVED BY GOVERNORS: December : 2015**

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**REVIEW DATE: February 2019**

**SIGNED: CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**

**SIGNED: HEAD TEACHER**

## **Contents:**

1. [Aims](#)
2. [Meaning of 'collective worship'](#)
3. [Organisation and planning](#)
4. [Implementation](#)
5. [Central attributes of collective worship](#)
6. [Right of withdrawal](#)
7. [Children with special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#)
8. [Monitoring and evaluation](#)

## **1. Introduction**

All maintained schools are required to organise an act of daily collective worship for registered pupils in order to promote their moral, spiritual and cultural development.

Collective worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

Hazel Grove Primary is sensitive to the individual beliefs and faiths of all members of the school and recognises different types of religious faiths and beliefs.

All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of religious education within the curriculum. Collective worship which is provided in a daily whole-school assembly is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

## **2. Aims**

This Policy aims at:

- Enabling pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and explore their own beliefs.
- Encouraging participation and response, via active involvement or through listening and joining in the worship offered.
- Providing children and young people the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Providing a peaceful environment enabling stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Helping pupils develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Developing a spirit of community and an understanding of the feelings of people with different beliefs.
- Acknowledging diversity and affirming each person's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promoting a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforcing positive attitudes.

## **3. Meaning of 'collective worship'**

According to the Education Reform Act 1988, 'worship' must reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence paid to a divine being or power.

Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities and the difference should be clear.

'Taking part' in collective worship implies that it should elicit a response from pupils, even if some pupils may not be able to actively identify with the act of worship.

## **4. Organisation and planning**

- The **headteacher** is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing body.
- The act of worship will be held for **20 minutes** in the classroom/school hall.
- Each act of collective worship will usually have a theme relevant to current affairs.
- The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- A timetable for collective worship is created to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, and learning is practically applied by pupils to life in and out of school.
- Visitors or guest speakers may sometimes be invited to speak or perform in line with the weekly theme. However, they must not enforce a certain belief or way of thinking and must also ensure that they comply with the collective worship policy. A member of staff will always be with the speaker in the hall.

## 5. Implementation

**Hazel Grove Primary** aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to the pupil's needs, age and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using devotional, artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage children's interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

## 6. Central attributes of collective worship

Central attributes of collective worship at **Hazel Grove Primary** involve:

Gathering – Making significant this part of the day through an appropriate ceremony.

Engaging – Using a variety of available techniques to engage pupils and stimulate interest.

Responding – Making sure that there is opportunity and time for all individuals to think and reflect.

## 7. Right of withdrawal

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship without stating a reason for doing so. However, they are encouraged to discuss their decision with the **headteacher** and the following, particularly in regards to:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require advance notice of such worship, and if so, how much.

## 8. Children with SEND

Hazel Grove Primary will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when organising a collective worship programme, and will ensure that content is thought-provoking for every pupil, regardless of their academic ability.

## 9. Monitoring and evaluation

This is annually undertaken by pupils, staff and governors. Pupils are involved in evaluation of collective worship via feedback from questionnaires and class discussions. All leaders should contribute to the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of collective worship in order to improve its impact on children.

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Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Headteacher**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Chair of Governors**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Next review date:** \_\_\_\_\_