

Hemingbrough CP School**School Collective Worship Policy**

Date of Next Review	Sep 2019	Responsibility	<i>Full Governing Body</i>
Date of Policy Adoption by Governing Body	Sep 2016	Signed	<i>Chair of Governors</i>

Legal Requirement

The Act (Education Act 1944 and Education Reform Act 1988) states that all children should take part in a daily act of collective worship. This act of collective worship may be organised in many ways. Children may join together as a whole school, in year groups, as a class, or 'house team' either in the morning or in the afternoon.

The Act also states that collective worship should be mainly of a broadly Christian character, but that it needs to take in to consideration the views of the Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Sikh religions. An act of worship which is of a broadly Christian character need not contain only Christian material provided that, taken as a whole, it reflects the traditions of Christian belief. For example an assembly might take the theme of charity that is common to **all** major world faiths.

The requirement of the law allows for flexibility in content and approach and allows schools to prepare an assembly programme which will **not** be offensive to, or compromise the beliefs of individuals but instead develop a programme which encourages values shared or held in common by Christians and other religious groups.

Such an assembly/worship programme may also focus on the sharing of common experiences in which **all could participate**. These experiences would represent common human values to which all faith communities ascribe. Other acts of collective worship may give children the opportunity to observe or learn about religious traditions within the community. The aim of this form of assembly would be to promote **tolerance and respect** for the rights of others to hold beliefs different from one's own.

In primary schools the planning of an assembly programme needs to take into account:

- the time of year
- the integrated topics being explored in various classrooms
- the celebrations and various commemorations of religious groups.

At **all times** these acts of collective worship **should have regard** to any relevant considerations relating to the children concerned; any circumstances relating to family background and their ages.

Collective Worship

Assemblies are led by the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, Class Teachers and on occasion other staff, visitors.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish.

In planning the collective worship policy the school has taken into account the following issues and has tried to provide:

- An effective and evolving pattern of themes for collective worship;
- Conceptual coherence and material appropriate to the age and stage of development of the pupils;
- The flexibility to respond to changing circumstances both in and out of school.

The school has included a range of types of worship:-

- Staff led;
- Assemblies led by visitors;
- Pupil involvement;
- Times of celebration;
- Opportunities for reflection and quiet;
- Storytelling;
- The creative and expressive arts;
- The sharing of knowledge, information and achievement;
- Exploration of biblical text and the use of symbolism.

The approach of the school is educational and, where appropriate, curricular, linked with themes that are being studied in school.

The school endeavours to promote through an understanding of spiritual, moral and social development.

Aims:

- To raise an awareness of the similarities and differences between them
- Foster community feeling in its broadest sense
- Encourage self respect
- Wonder in the presence of the marvels of the natural world;
- Delight at being alive in the modern world with all it means and offers;
- Expression of emotions and feelings;
- A sense of fellowship between people;
- Attitudes, behaviour and responsibilities towards others, reflecting the school of tolerance , support and understanding;
- Admiration for the human virtues of decency, honesty, self sacrifice, courage etc;
- Concern at the sight of cruelty, injustice, exploitation etc;
- Appreciation of beauty, truth and love.

Objectives:

- Establish assemblies which are **enjoyable, acceptable** and **valuable to all**
- To encourage participation by sharing in music, art, language, movement and poetry.
- Be aware of religions by the celebration of festivals and cultural traditions.

- To experience thanking and being thanked, praising and being praised and to develop a positive sense of achievement.
- Celebration of the festivals of Christianity;
- Information on major festivals and other faiths;
- Presentation of bible stories;
- Topical materials from local and national news;
- Literature with implicit and explicit religious or moral teaching;
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity;
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements, work of ourselves and others;
- Prayer in different forms – formal, children’s own, silence and meditation.

Children enter and leave the place of collective worship to appropriate music. They are expected to sit quietly and be attentive.