



Hadley Wood Primary School Collective Act of Worship Policy

Date the policy came into effect	September 2024
Date of the next policy review	September 2026
Version number	2
Name of the person responsible for this policy	Fran Worby
Issued to	Staff, governors and parents
Date of issue	September 2020

Collective Act of Worship Policy

The Collective Worship Policy at Hadley Wood Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act and the 1996 education Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', and in recognition of the fact that the majority of our pupils are practising members of other faiths, we base our assemblies on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with other faiths.

The Collective Worship Policy of Hadley Wood Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims

Through our Collective Worship we aim to:

- share common aims and values
- develop a community spirit
- celebrate worthy events and achievements for pupils, the school and the community as a whole
- promote Fundamental British Values
- introduce children to a variety of faiths, showing some children what it is to worship while reaffirming the beliefs of others
- promote the spiritual and moral development of pupils as required by the ERA 1988

Content and Delivery

Hadley Wood School is an accredited Values-based Education School and has an agreed set of school values selected by pupils, parents, staff and governors. During our Collective Act of Worship, as in all subject areas, we aim to include the values in all of our discussions. This allows children to focus on the value of the month and learn in a respectful manner which is fundamental to the study of religions and religious practices as well as our school vision. Through our Collective Worship we hope to create an atmosphere that promotes thought and reflection and which nurtures pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Collective Worship at Hadley Wood School aims to be interesting, informative and educational. It should be a time when ideas and beliefs can be explored, discussed and developed and, wherever possible, children are involved in presenting, performing in, or responding to, Collective Worship. Full use is made of resources such as books, films, video, slides, music and pictures in order to engage our pupils. A variety of media are used to stimulate children, for example drama, song, poetry, prayer, readings, story and dance. All of these can enable pupils to come to a deeper understanding of the spiritual dimension to their lives and are seen as steps in the promotion of pupils' spiritual development. We aim to make the environment

in which our assemblies take place comfortable and stimulating, with an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance.

Equal Opportunities

All children regardless of race, religion or gender are entitled to attend and participate in the acts of Collective Worship. Our assemblies aim to take into consideration the ages and abilities as well as the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of the children in our school. We aim to ensure that an equal balance is achieved regarding the race, religion and gender during our assemblies.

The ERA does allow parents to withdraw their child from Collective Acts of Worship if they so wish, however, it is intended that the assemblies delivered at Hadley Wood School are inclusive and respectful of the integrity of all pupils and staff. Where parents express concern about their child participating in Collective Acts of Worship, we request that they meet with the Headteacher in order to establish a shared understanding of the statutory requirements.

Organisation

Collective Worship is planned into assemblies termly, and religious festivals are highlighted and celebrated. Assemblies are always related to the value of the month, celebratory events or religious festivals.

The general outline for the week's assemblies is as follows:

Monday – Whole School Values Assembly (Headteacher)

Tuesday – Values Based Music Assembly (Music Lead)

Wednesday – Reading for Pleasure Assembly (Class Teacher)

Thursday – Whole School Values Assembly (Deputy Headteacher)

Friday – Achievement Assembly – Revisiting our Values in Action and celebrating the success of individuals (Headteacher)

Children always participate in these assemblies and parents are invited to class assemblies which take place once a year. Members of religious groups in the community are invited to share and celebrate religious festivals.

In the achievement assembly, we celebrate the success of pupils. Certificates are awarded and the children come to the front of the hall to collect these and receive praise by the rest of the school. Star of the Week, Values in Action, Achievement Certificate and Gold Award winners are praised by all during this assembly.

House Captains are also invited to publicly address their house and offer words of encouragement as the weekly House winners are announced and presented with the House Cup. The whole school Acts of Worship end with a moment of reflection in the form of a 'Let's Think'. The children are encouraged to close their eyes for a short time and reflect on the content of the day's assembly.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that daily acts of collective worship take place and organises the assembly rota, inviting guest speakers and highlighting religious festivals to be celebrated.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is a regular and ongoing process, with those responsible being the Headteacher, Inclusion Lead, PSHE Coordinator RE Coordinator and members of the Senior Management Team as Phase Leaders, as well as the school governors. Any of the above individuals may lead and attend assemblies and evaluate and discuss any issues that arise.