



**Haworth Primary
School**

**Collective Worship
Policy**

Introduction

This Collective Worship Policy has been designed with our school population in mind. It is written in accordance with Bradford SACRE's and Bradford Council's guidance for Collective Worship.

'In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' (ERA 1988, Education Act 1993)

At Haworth Primary School, acts of Collective Worship will reflect the broad tradition of Christian belief and promote a positive ethos and community values. They will draw on the values and traditions of other religions as appropriate, helping to promote confidence in a pupil's own traditions and the ability to see value in the traditions of others.

The Law

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible. The Headteacher is responsible for arranging this after consulting with the governing body.

- All maintained schools must provide Collective Worship for all pupils.
- Collective Worship must be offered daily and will be planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.
- It can be a single act for all pupils, or separate acts for any normal grouping of pupils e.g. a class, key stage, or a year.
- The Headteacher, in consultation with the governing body, has the responsibility for making arrangements for worship.
- Most of the acts of worship in any one term must be of a wholly, or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- The way in which this 'Christian character' is defined must be decided by each individual school, with regard to the pupils' family background, ages and aptitudes.
- No act of worship should be distinctive of any particular denomination (Christian) e.g. it should not have a strong Church of England content, or Catholic content - it should be 'ecumenical' **Therefore at Haworth Primary School, over the course of the school year, acts of worship will generally be 'ecumenical' in character, with no denominational bias.**
- Acts of worship can include worship which is of a broadly Christian character; which is broadly in the tradition of another religion (as long as this is only a minority of acts of worship in any one school term); which contain elements drawn from a number of faiths denominations.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community ethos for the school as a whole and reinforce positive attitudes;
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves.
- To promote Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response and enable them to explore their own beliefs.
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding.
- Collective Worship is also an opportunity for pupils to celebrate their own achievements, those of the school and the community.
- Under no circumstances will pupils be asked to accept beliefs that are contrary to their family background.
- To provide an opportunity for calm reflection.

Objectives of Collective Worship

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder, joy, rejoicing, sorrow and mystery.
- To develop an appreciation of the infinite variety of the natural world.
- Self-worth and value of others.

To develop an awareness:

- That life involves choices of belief/attitude/behaviour/relationships.
- That there is meaning, purpose and value in life.

At Haworth Primary School all acts of Collective Worship are based on the principles that they should be:

- Inclusive
- Spiritual
- Educational

All acts of collective worship at Haworth Primary should contribute to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of children. They include worship of a broadly Christian nature and are seen as special times where children can feel secure and relaxed and share with others to foster a feeling of community.

School worship should acknowledge and respect the responses of individual pupils and provide opportunities for them to express their feelings such as delight at life, wonder, joy, rejoicing and sorrow.

- Acts of worship will not assume a shared religious commitment and will encourage a voluntary response from pupils'. However, pupils who do not wish to respond must show respect for those that wish to (see **Organisation, Planning and Content of Collective Worship**)

- Acts of collective worship will encourage pupils to consider their own place in the community and what it means to be a citizen.

Planning and Content of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned so as to be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate. Acts of Collective Worship are planned on a half termly basis, to follow a theme which promotes Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Development. They include examples from various religious cultures. These themes are linked to:

- Celebration of religious festivals, linked to the calendar of religious festivals for the year.
- Their place within a diverse, multi-cultural community
- Special events in the life of the school and the community
- The environment and our place within it

The themes planned enable the children to reflect on matters of importance and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music making, drama, role-play, the visual arts, silent thought, prayer and discussion.

The content of Collective Worship is designed to enhance the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils, to provide opportunities for reflection, to celebrate the positive, praise achievements and promote recognition of each pupil's own worth and potential.

Collective Worship will include elements the following:

- Personal reflection and self-expression
- Exploration of the many values and beliefs which are reflected in society at large and held as important by members of faiths and no faith e.g. a sense of awe at the natural world.
- Personal recognition of right and wrong (Moral)
- The capacity to flourish as a human being (Spiritual)

Organisation of Acts of Collective Worship

There is a weekly pattern of class, Key Stage and whole school assemblies and each one lasts approximately 15 minutes. Daily Collective Worship will take place at a clearly designated time, which may vary from day to day.

The Headteacher and other members of staff normally lead assemblies and local Christian faith leaders are invited to lead one assembly, in each Key Stage, per week. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

- All religious believers contributing to Collective Worship will have an induction with a member of the Senior Leadership Team and will be made familiar with the school policy for Collective Worship and the nationally accepted PCFRE guidance.
- Acts of Collective Worship are arranged to develop a sense of occasion.
- Children are expected to enter and leave quietly.
- While the children are in the hall, they sit in classes.
- Music, from a variety of sources, may be played at the start and/or end of the assembly. This may reflect the theme of the assembly or the age of the children.
- An appropriate song, relevant to the theme of the week, is sung.
- Pupils are expected to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and participate respectfully in reflections.
- We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- Pupils are expected to bow their heads (to look at the floor), sit still and quiet, to encourage times of reflection, or prayer for those who wish to do so.
- Members of the local community are invited at regular intervals each term to assemblies and visiting speakers are regularly invited to contribute to our Collective Worship.

Arrangements are made for children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship

- Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship should they wish to do so, but we believe that Collective Worship is inclusive and beneficial for all pupils. Please contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns.
- All children will be provided with appropriate class work and will be supervised in another room by members of staff (on a rota basis).
- Staff, equally, have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

Conclusion

- This policy has been developed with representation from staff, governors and in consultation with staff from the Interfaith Education Centre.
- Policy written by Caron Stone
- Ratified by Governors April 2016
- To be reviewed April 2018