

## Collective Worship Policy

### Rationale

Our school vision focuses on the development of the whole child. The reinforcement of a set of core values in each child is essential to fulfilling this vision. At Hambrook we take every opportunity to reinforce our school's shared values; our act of daily worship is crucial in focusing the whole school on the aspect of the value chosen for that week.

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God, to celebrate learners' achievements and to develop a sense of community. Collective worship involves children participating in whole school or key stage worship. Parents have the right, under the 1988 Education Reform Act, to withdraw their child from acts of collective worship.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship in the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

### The Legal Framework

The 1988 Education Reform Act makes the following requirements for worship:

- it must take place daily for all registered pupils
- the majority of acts of worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" that is reflecting the broad traditions of any denomination
- it can take place at any time of day and in groupings appropriate to the school
- regard must be taken of the pupils' family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes
- parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Children who are withdrawn will be supervised. Teachers also have the right to withdraw.
- it is the duty of the Headteacher after consultation with the governors to ensure these arrangements are implemented.

### Aims of Collective Worship

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship together;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to promote racial harmony and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination.

### Guidelines

- We hold daily acts of collective worship in our school.
- Worship should be Inclusive, Educational and Spiritual.
- We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We encourage the children to develop an understanding that assembly times are periods of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children attempt to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the assembly and participate fully in prayer, reflection and singing. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music

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and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

- A range of adults conduct assembly including the head teacher or other members of staff, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups.
- We take the themes of our worship from the school values, and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum, including SEAL.
- Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Assembly offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Hambrook is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in assembly.
- We invite parents to assemblies on special occasions, for example class assemblies, and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.
- We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

### Values for Life

The 'Values for Life' primary school resource pack (Courage, Peace, Creativity, Forgiveness, Justice, Friendship, Truthfulness, Thankfulness, Compassion, Humility, Hope, Trust, perseverance, Generosity, Responsibility, Respect, Service and Wisdom) and the SEAL programme provide the framework for collective worship.

Although the values focused upon in this scheme are distinctively Christian, many of the values are shared with other faiths and society in general.

### Monitoring and Review

This policy is subject to review in accordance with decisions made by the Governors and any change in the legal requirements for worship.

Monitoring within school will take place annually, by discussion with staff to determine whether current arrangements meet the needs of the school.

Proposed major changes will be presented to the Governors for approval.

Policy Date: Spring 2015

Review Date: Spring 2019

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### EIA Screening

Groups that may be affected:

Are there concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups?	Existing or potential adverse impact	Existing or potential for a positive impact
<b>Age</b> (young people, the elderly; issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)		
<b>Disability</b> (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; access to buildings, curriculum and communication)		
<b>Gender reassignment</b>		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>		
<b>Racial groups</b> (language, culture, ethnicity)		
<b>Religion or belief</b> (worship, religious or cultural observance, incl non-belief)		
<b>Sex</b> (male, female)		
<b>Sexual orientation</b> (gay, lesbian, bisexual; actual or perceived)		

Any adverse impacts are explored in a Full Impact Assessment