

HOOK INFANT SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

As a school, we follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act and our Collective Worship is of a broadly Christian character, in line with the Education Reform Act 1993. Our interpretation of 'Broadly Christian' is that over half of the assemblies provided over the entire academic year should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief, but should be non-denominational in character and will include:

- Bible Stories
- Stories about notable Christians, historical or contemporary
- Christian festivals
- Secular and religious stories with a moral Christian message
- Christian artefacts and images
- Celebration of children's work

We offer a daily act of worship either within classes, year groups or as a whole school, and our overall aim is to make a positive contribution to pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and British values. We interpret worship to mean a time when children are given the opportunity to reflect and respond with a sense of reverence. This may be through an emotional or devotional response, an affirmation of belief or a feeling of awe or wonder.

Aims

- To provide a daily opportunity for worship.
- To provide an atmosphere that is conducive to a range of styles of worship.
- To encourage the children to express their feelings through stories, poetry, song, prayer or quiet reflection, and to value the purpose of meditation.
- To provide opportunities for the children to celebrate achievement of all kinds.
- To encourage the children to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore and share their own beliefs.
- To develop a sense of community spirit, to promote a common ethos, to share values and to reinforce positive attitudes.
- To help to prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

Practice and Procedures

1. All children must attend Collective Worship, unless their parents have exercised their right to withdraw their child from all or part of Collective Worship. If a child is withdrawn then they will be given work to undertake alongside a member of staff.
2. The children will assemble in the school hall each afternoon, unless otherwise stated. The children will be expected to be silent from the time they leave their classrooms, thus creating an atmosphere of calm. The class teacher or another designated adult will accompany the class. Singing will usually be undertaken for entering and leaving the hall.
3. The beginning of each term, the DHT will provide each member of staff with a timetable for Collective worship. This will show dates, themes, and the teacher responsible and whether class based or whole school. It will also show specific hymns/songs to be practised each week as the children enter and leave the hall. The DHT will also arrange for visitors to participate in, or lead Collective Worship, such as the local priest or vicar and groups such as Open The Book.
4. Each term there may also be acts of Collective Worship based on other faiths and cultures, 'one-off' issues such as road safety, drug awareness, speaking to strangers, and charity events such as Children in Need. This could also involve school, local, national or world events. As far as possible, these will be planned in advance, but we aim to maintain some flexibility and the ability to respond to the unexpected.
5. During the first term, Reception children will initially have a daily act of Collective Worship in their own classrooms and with their own class teacher. They will gradually be integrated into whole school assemblies.
6. A variety of methods of presentation will be used to help stimulate and maintain the children's interest, including stories, poems, pictures, photographs, videos, drama, discussion, music and singing.

We will ensure that the delivery of Collective Worship is accessible to all pupils, regardless of ability.

Reviewed and revised March 2016

Approved by the Governing Body, Hook Infant School

Signed *ACOWEY'S*
Chairman of Governing Body

Date *March 2016*

Date for Review: March 2019

Ref. POLICIES/COLLECTIVE WORSHIP