



HILL WEST
Primary

FOUR OAKS

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Hill West Primary School is a member of the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership

HILL WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

ACE: Ambitious, Curious and Ever-Respectful

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy explains how we intend to organise, manage and deliver Collective Worship within our school.

WHAT IS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Hill West, we understand the importance of collective worship in terms of its educational, inclusive and spiritual nature and this can play an important part in the lives of our young children. We ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child are embedded into all collective worship that takes place in our school, explicitly recognising this spiritual element of a holistic child's development, along with social and moral well-being, cultural development and physical and mental health. The Equality Act 2010, places a duty on us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations (Birmingham Curriculum Statement). This reflects the ATLP and school policies on equal opportunities. Our collective worship challenges but does not seek to convert or indoctrinate. It affirms diversity and the need to respect integrity of pupils and teachers whatever their faith or non-backgrounds.

DEFINITION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

'Worship' is not defined in the legislation; therefore, for the purpose of this policy, "collective worship" reflects an act which is special or separate from ordinary school activities. It is a time when individuals come together, and reverence or veneration is paid to a divine being or power. To take part in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our aims are to:

- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different values and faiths

- Provide opportunities for prayers and promote reflection upon readings from holy texts, social and moral stories and key texts.
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to consider life's big questions and their responses.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not.
- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to discussions on key themes and topics, e.g. morality.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.

We seek to lead pupils to the point where they can appreciate and if they wish, develop faith.

UNICEF Article 14: You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The school will implement collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with the Right to withdraw section of this policy.

Worship will be of a broadly Christian character; however, there will be influences from other religions found in the local community.

The Head Teacher, alongside the lead teacher for RE and Personal Development and Well-Being is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the School Advocates.

The act of worship will be held for 15 to 20 minutes daily in the school hall.

The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

The Head Teacher will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.

The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme. Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's No Platform Policy and Guest Speaker Risk Assessment during their visit.

The school will understand that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities, and, although they may take place as part of the same gathering, the difference between the two will be considered.

Where appropriate, each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the Head Teacher and Curriculum Leads.

IMPLEMENTATION

Collective worship at Hill West is well planned. It is flexible and sensitive, responding to and reflecting on contemporary events. We will promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama, and guest speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals and shared or written prayers.

At Hill West we take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme. We will arrange for specialist support to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises, in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy.

Care is taken to achieve the right atmosphere at the start and end of Acts of Worship.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

Parents will have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and will not be required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the Head Teacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the pupil taking part in.
- The practical implications of their withdrawal.
- Whether the parent will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred

Alternative arrangements will be put in place for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Alternative arrangements may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

The alternative arrangements will be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The Head Teacher, in agreement with ATLP Advocates, will review this policy, on an annual basis.