



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

## 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 needs to respect integrity of pupils and teachers whatever their faith or non-backgrounds.

### LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The law requires that all pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship. Taken over a term, the majority of such acts should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature. Specifically, the law requires that:

- All pupils should take part in an act of collective worship each school day
- There may be a single act of collective worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups or school groups
- In community schools without a religious character, the Head Teacher, after consultation with the Governing Body, is responsible for the arrangements for collective worship
- Acts of collective worship shall take place on the school premises
- Acts of collective worship should be appropriate to the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of the pupils
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all acts of collective worship. The parent does not have to give a reason for this request. The school retains responsibility for the pupil's health and safety.
- All Teachers (including Head Teachers) retain the right to withdraw from acts of collective worship.

The school prospectus makes clear parents' right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

## **AIMS**

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 or other writing
- 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

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**

Collective worship takes place every day at Hill West Primary School as part of school assembly. All pupils attend unless withdrawn by their parents. Weekly themes are published at the start of each half term. If it is not possible to hold a collective worship, then classroom assemblies take place. If a class or year group are unable to attend collective worship for any reason, for example, trips, visits, then worship takes place at an alternative time if possible. We maintain strong links with All Saints Church and play an active part in our parish community. A range of visitors from the local community, including, charities, leaders of different faiths and other local schools are motivational in leading assemblies. Every class (Reception to Year 6) will prepare, rehearse and perform a whole school assembly to share with family and friends. This will relate to work undertaken within the class curriculum.

## **GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

Collective worship at Hill West is well planned. It is flexible and sensitive, responding to and reflecting on contemporary events.

Acts of Worship must include some or all of the following

- Sharing values of a broadly Christian nature
- Opportunities for prayer or meditation
- Opportunities to reflect upon readings from holy texts or other readings
- Opportunities for experiencing music and its intrinsic value for enjoyment and self-expression through performing, singing and the playing of instruments (Birmingham Curriculum Statement)

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

## **RESOURCES**

We have invested in various texts that support a variety of themes to address this policy. These texts can be located in the cupboard in the Deputy Head's Office. Any presentations are to be saved in the 'staff shared area' in the assembly's folder.

## **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

The school will review this policy accordingly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.