



**Name of policy: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Version	Date	Approved by governors	Description
1	March 2011	17.03.11	Amended Policy from old one dated 2002

**This policy is due for review on: Spring 2015**



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **The Law**

The Education Act 1988 and DFE Circular 1/94 require that Collective Worship should be daily and provided for all children, unless they have been withdrawn by their parents. Collective Worship must be non-denominational. Over a period of a term the majority of acts of Collective Worship must be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”. Collective Worship must be educational and, when considering the content, account must be taken of “any circumstances relating to the family backgrounds of the pupils concerned which are relevant for determining the character of Collective Worship which is appropriate in their case, and their ages and aptitudes”.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children and teachers have the right not to attend. However, we would hope that most people would feel comfortable with the type of Collective Worship offered at our school. If parents do withdraw their children from Collective Worship they should provide suitable material for the child to read/contemplate during this time.

### **Our Aims**

We aim to conform to the letter and spirit of the Law and ensure that Collective Worship contributes to the social, moral and spiritual education of our children. All acts of Collective Worship provide opportunities to worship, to consider spiritual and moral issues and explore personal beliefs both individually and corporately. Collective Worship is also seen as an opportunity to foster a sense of community, identity and self-esteem and to celebrate individual and corporate achievements.

There may be occasions when written parental permission will be sought to withdraw children from Collective Worship for specific educational purposes.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

The organisation of Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Headteacher, after consultation with the school Governors. Collective worship is delivered in a variety of ways at Highwood Primary School. They are:

- Whole school assemblies based on topics and themes that make reference to religious or moral theme. Whole school assemblies occur twice per week
- Key stage assemblies based on topics and themes that make reference to religious or moral theme. Whole school assemblies occur twice per week
- Class assembly – usually in the form of circle time. These occur once per week.

A school assembly rota is kept to map out themes followed for assemblies and Collective Worship, where appropriate, these will complement the school’s topics. Some themes will be calendar related, e.g. Christmas or Eid, or will relate to issues in the global, local or national communities

When appropriate or required, visitors to school may take assemblies, e.g. representatives from local churches, other faiths or community groups.

Within each term the majority of acts of worship are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian content. However, acts of worship which contain elements drawn from a number of different faiths are also appropriate. Any secular acts of Collective Worship, will, where appropriate, contain moral, spiritual or social messages and should provide an opportunity for Worship. A variety of methods will be used including music, poetry, drama, visual aids and appropriate themes will be used such as festivals, friendship and environment.