





Huntington

Community Primary School

Collective Worship Policy 2022

Signed by:

Headteacher

Date: 16.02.22

Chair of Governors

Date: 16.02.22

Next review Spring 2025

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Statement of intent

At Huntington Community Primary School, we see the value in collective worship and adhere to our statutory duty by providing 20 minutes of collective worship a day. This time will enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

The act of daily collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character; however, other faiths and cultures will be represented.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for the school to meet together in a variety of contexts and enables participating pupils and staff to consider events of the world and appreciate the rich tapestry of human experience and existence.

This policy outlines how our school implements collective worship within our daily routines, including the aims of collective worship and how pupils can be withdrawn.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

1.2. This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

1.3. This policy will be implemented alongside the following school policies:

- RE Policy
- Guest Speaker Policy

2. Definition of collective worship

2.1. For the purpose of this policy, "**collective worship**" is an act which is special or separate from ordinary school activities, and concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power.

2.2. 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.

3. Aims of collective worship

3.1. Collective worship aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- 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.
- 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.

4. Organisation and planning

- 4.1. The school will implement collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).
- 4.2. Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with [section 7](#) of this policy.
- 4.3. Worship will be of a broadly Christian character; however, there will be influences from other religions found in the local community.
- 4.4. The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship, following discussion with the Governing Board.
- 4.5. The act of worship will be held for 20 minutes daily, either in the school hall or classrooms, dependent on the nature of the gathering.
- 4.6. Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to topics agreed by the headteacher.
- 4.7. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- 4.8. The headteacher will establish a programme for collective worship to ensure progression between sessions, and that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.
- 4.9. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the programme.
- 4.10. Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's *Guest Speaker Policy* during their visit.

5. Collective worship programme

- 5.1. The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils.
- 5.2. Prayer, hymns and time for reflection will be a regular part of collective worship.
- 5.3. All topics covered will be suitable to the age of pupils participating in collective worship and will be inclusive for all needs.

6. Implementation

- 6.1. The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:
 - Encouraging pupils to reflect on and contemplate 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.

- 6.2. The school will take the different ages and abilities of pupils into account when delivering the collective worship programme.
- 6.3. The school will arrange for support staff to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises.

7. Right to withdraw

- 7.1. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.
- 7.2. Parents will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:
 - The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part.
 - 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.
- 7.3. Alternative provision will be arranged for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.
- 7.4. Alternative provision may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:
 - The effect would not be to replace the statutory, non-denominational collective worship with denominational worship.
 - Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- 7.5. The alternative provision will be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

8. Monitoring and review

- 8.1. This policy will be reviewed every three years by the headteacher in agreement with the Curriculum Committee.
- 8.2. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.
- 8.3. The scheduled review date for this policy is Spring 2025.