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Hallbrook Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Approved/reviewed by	
Hallbrook Local Governing Committee 19 November 2024 V1	
Date of next review	November 2027
Publication:	Website – Operational

This policy is reviewed 3-yearly to ensure compliance with current regulations.

Version	Date	Updated by	Summary of changes
V1	November 2024	Headteacher (TB)	New Policy

Collective Worship

The Collective Worship Policy at Hallbrook Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered through SACRE. In line with the Education Reform Act 1988, which states that the majority of acts of collective worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", we ensure that our assemblies reflect the traditions of Christian belief, including those aspects that are shared with other faiths. The Collective Worship Policy of Hallbrook Primary School is consistent with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the School Prospectus. Assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

1. Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

2. Aims of Collective Worship

For the school:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Hallbrook Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values;
- celebrate achievement and special times;
- explore together the world in which they live;
- develop a community spirit.

For the pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a "whole" person by providing opportunities to:

- worship;
- consider spiritual and moral issues;
- explore their own beliefs;
- develop their own spirituality;
- reflect on the direction of their lives;
- reinforce positive attitudes and values;
- participate and respond;
- reflect on what it means to be human;
- consider the wonders and worries of the world.

3. The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Hallbrook Primary School Collective worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy, which informs our practice. To ensure that Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to "respond" on their own level.

4. The Management of Collective Worship

The Headteacher, with support from the Senior Leadership Team, is responsible for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the daily acts of Collective Worship.

The Governing Body has responsibility for ensuring that there is provision for collective worship through school assemblies.

5. The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship is organised in a variety of groupings, including whole school and classes, and will take place on a daily basis, lasting for approximately 15 minutes.

The assemblies will link with themes that reflect our school and Christian values. We will develop links between these themes and other world religions. This will highlight some of the similarities and differences between world religions in a positive light and help to foster within our children a greater understanding and respect for all religions and other cultures.

6. Leadership of Collective Worship

Members of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

7. Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Weekly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. This will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable monitoring and evaluation to take place.

Visiting members of the local religious denominations will be invited to contribute to assemblies on a regular basis. Visitors from different traditions will increase pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of pupils who belong to these traditions.

8. The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods of delivery are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not necessarily be visual, but opportunity is given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. A clearly defined break between the announcement and the act of worship will be made (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc).

9. Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Our assemblies will be conducted in a sensitive and inclusive manner to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Arrangements for supervision will be made for any pupil who is withdrawn from Collective Worship.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governors' will review this policy in line with the school's monitoring and evaluation schedule. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school. In line with the requirement of the Equality Act 2010 and the combined equality duty of 2011, in developing this policy Hallbrook Primary School has taken due regard to the need to:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
3. Foster good relations across all protected characteristics – between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

In endeavouring to advance equality of opportunity in relation to this policy, Hallbrook Primary School will give relevant and proportionate consideration to:

1. Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people which are connected to a particular protected characteristic they have.
2. Taking steps to meet the particular needs of people who have a particular protected characteristic.
3. Encouraging people who have a particular protected characteristic to participate fully in any activities.

11. Links to other policies

- **SMSC Policy:** Enhances spiritual and cultural experiences.
- **British Values:** Reflects and promotes British values.
- **Equality Statement:** Ensures worship is inclusive and respectful of all beliefs.