



HIGHBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Highbury Primary and Nursery School's mission is:

- To be an inclusive, safe and caring community where each member is equally valued and nurtured to develop their potential.
- To achieve academic excellence by ensuring each pupil performs to the best of their ability.
- To work together as a team with parents and carers within the community to promote respect responsibility for the benefit of all.

1 Aims and purpose

Our aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to provide an opportunity for the children to consider the purpose and meaning of life;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to provide an opportunity for calm reflection.

2 Collective Worship

2.1 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together, as a class, key stage or whole school and participating in an assembly.

2.2 In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our

assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

- 2.3 While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community. Parents and representatives from other faiths sometimes visit us.

3. Organisation of collective worship

- 3.1 We hold a daily act of worship in our school and this forms part of each assembly. It may include music, song, stories, shared experiences, readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection.
- 3.2 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.3 The Headteacher and other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, and local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups sometimes conduct them as well.
- 3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from a range of resources as well as the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We plan the themes for the term ahead. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Themes also include our school values and British values.

Further opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder are provided in curriculum areas such as R.E., Literacy, Art, Science, PSHE&C and Music.

- 3.5 Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Parents are invited to see their child receive certificates.
- 3.6 We invite parents to special class assemblies on a weekly basis (Fridays) and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to

support the achievements of our children. Parents and friends are further invited to our many special assemblies such as Harvest, Easter, Leavers assembly, some of which take place in St. Philip's Church.

3.7 We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

4. Right of Withdrawal

4.1 We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2 The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5 Monitoring

5.1 Monitoring occurs informally through staff and pupil discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. A governor monitoring the implementation of this policy liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governor's on collective worship.

6 Review

This policy was reviewed in January 2018 and will be reviewed every three years.