



# Collective Worship Policy

## INTRODUCTION

*This policy is based on a model policy provided by Dorset Local Authority*

### Statutory Duty of Schools

The School Standards and Framework Act (1998) states that all children attending maintained schools must attend a daily act of collective worship (unless they have been withdrawn by their parents - see below). This is usually provided within an assembly. The act also states that 'the daily collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' but the precise nature will depend on the family background, ages and abilities of the pupils.

The head teacher is responsible for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body. Records are kept of themes dealt with and materials used.

At Hayeswood an act of Collective Worship is held daily, either in a whole school or year-group / base situation.

### Aims

The aims of our collective worship are to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Consider spiritual and moral issues and explore and develop their own spirituality
- Foster sensitivity to the beliefs, practices and values of others within the school and the local community
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Christian nature and on their own beliefs
- Celebrate special occasions and show appreciation of the gifts and talents of others
- Worship God if they choose
- Respond to the worship offered
- Develop an understanding of fundamental British Values and how they fit into our society
- Respond to issues in society either local or global.

### Implementation

At Hayeswood, our collective worship will:

- Be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- Include a variety of elements at different times
- Involve the pupils.

Opportunities are provided for both active participation and reflection and we aim to create an atmosphere conducive to reflection and response.

Our acts of collective worship involve the wider community and we have regular visits from representatives of St. Michael's Church, Colehill. On occasions we will also have visitors such as representatives from charities, other religions and representatives from local services such as police, fire and the school nurses. On occasion, assembly will be led by groups (e.g School Council) or classes of children.

Our collective worship will include a variety of elements, for example:

- Stories with depth and meaning
- Stories and discussions related to current S.E.A.L themes
- Biblical stories
- Stories from other cultures and times
- The life and work of key historical figures as well as from the present day
- Poetry
- Music and song
- Drama and mime
- Artefacts
- Pictures and videos /DVDs
- Reflection on current issues

Whilst we expect all children to take a moment to reflect quietly on the subject under discussion, no child is expected to pray – that is their choice.

Themes usually last for half or all of a term but also include the key Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter as well as other special events such as Remembrance day.

### **Daily Themes for Collective Worship**

<b>Monday:</b>	Current theme – Mrs Gerrett
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Jigsaw / RRS theme – Rota of teachers
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Singing Practise– Mrs Everitt (Music Subject Leader), Jigsaw / RRS theme – Rota of teachers
<b>Thursday:</b>	Open the Book – Open the Book team from St Michael's Church ( including Mrs McGregor)
<b>Friday:</b>	Celebration Assembly – Mrs Gerrett

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

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

### **The right of parents to withdraw their child.**

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Religious Education (RE) and collective worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE or collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn.

A school remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from RE or collective worship, unless the child is lawfully receiving RE or taking part in collective worship elsewhere.

Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The DfES recommends that, to avoid misunderstanding, a head teacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:

The religious issues about which the parent would object to their child being taught

The practical implications of withdrawal

The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents' wishes

If a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much

***The school is committed to safeguarding and providing for the welfare of all pupils and expects its staff to share in this commitment.***

Reviewed:	April 2017
Approved by Governors:	
Next Review:	April 2019