



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**Date: April 2021**

**Signed:**

**Review: April 2022**

## **1 Aims and purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship;
- 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 teach children how to worship.

## **2 Collective worship**

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 and participating in an assembly.

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 through the Values for Life. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **3 Organisation of collective worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school.

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 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.

Hayton benefits from a strong link to St Mary Magdalene Church in Hayton and Revd. Johnsen conducts a weekly assembly in the Church. Occasionally local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct assemblies e.g. NISCU.

We take many of the themes of our assemblies from Christian Values and often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes in advance of the day they take place but also hold assemblies that reflect current issues when the need arises. Sometimes children participate by showing their work and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes.

A weekly celebration assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We view this as an important time that gives school staff an opportunity to reinforce school values and to

acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and to strengthen the message that all children are valued equally. In addition to the chosen theme from 'Values for Life' we also link our '8 Secrets for Success' (particularly 'Understanding Others'); our 'Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum and use the News Post resource to support the reinforcement of British Values.

#### **4 Right of withdrawal**

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.

#### **5 Monitoring and review**

It is the role of Rev Edward Johnsen, with governor responsibility for religious education and collective worship, to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.