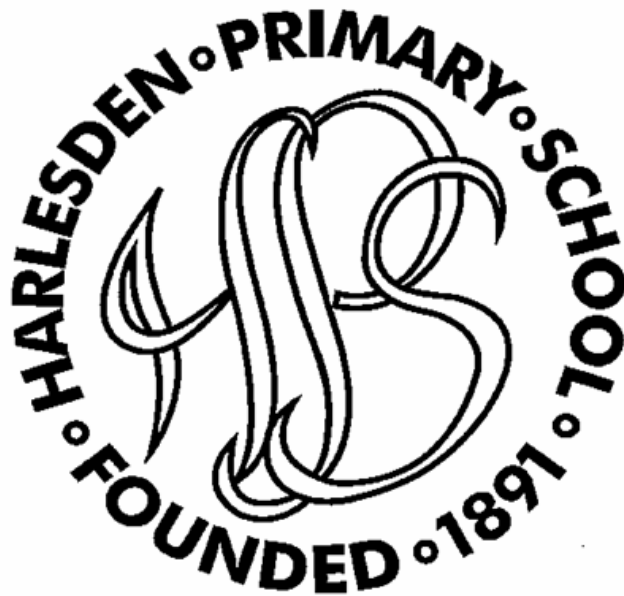


# Collective Worship Policy

July 2020



## Aims:

- To provide the children a forum to share information, knowledge, feelings and ideas about their immediate experience/environment and help them to interpret the wider world.
- To celebrate difference and individual rights while reinforcing individual and collective responsibility.
- To provide opportunities for children to respect religious ideas and beliefs encompassed in world faiths.
- To foster in children a sense of awe and wonder in the universe around them and of the beauty of the natural world.
- To enable children to value and celebrate the creativity and achievements of their own inheritance and also as members of the world population.
- To support children in learning about the diversity of human experience.

The 1988 Education act state that “All pupils will on each school day take part in an act of collective worship... The worship shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”. However, at Harlesden Primary School we have a determination through SACRE from the requirement to hold a Christian assembly and we follow a multi-faith approach instead.

We believe that collective worship are part of the process of seeing the school from a wider perspective of existing as part of a community and relating to the experience and needs of others. We also believe that children should be encouraged to develop a sense of humanity as a community and to see the universe as a shared resource. We intend that collective worship should play a crucial role in supporting children to undertake their moral responsibilities, to inform their religious knowledge and to develop their spiritual understanding.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The governing body is responsible for ensuring this policy is adhered to.  
The head-teacher is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented.

### **ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

We hold daily acts of collective worship in our school lasting approximately 15 minutes to provide the children with opportunities for collective reflection and encourage feelings of unity and collaboration. This is in the form of either key stage, year group or class gatherings and usually take place towards the end of the school day. This can vary in accordance with individual class timetables.

The Early Years Foundation Stage will hold their own acts of collective worship and will gradually be introduced to the Key Stage 1 assemblies as their teachers feel appropriate.

We conduct assembly in a dignified and respectful way. We tell the children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect the children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to issues and ideas raised; these will be appropriate to the particular needs of the different age groups.

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.

The headteacher, senior management team and phase leaders usually conduct assemblies, but sometimes other members of staff or representatives of local religious groups lead them instead. Every class also takes the lead at least two assemblies a year.

### **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. Termly assembly rotas including a range of themes, special occasions and events will be followed, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues.

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.

We will regularly use music, poetry and literature as part of a 'reflective experience', and ensure that opportunities for reflection are respectful of difference in culture and belief.

We welcome parents' and governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

### **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.

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

### **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

It is the role of the Chair of Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.