

# HAZELDENE LOWER SCHOOL



**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY  
REVIWED JUNE 2015**

SIGNED ..... DATE.....  
HEADTEACHER

SIGNED ..... DATE .....  
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

TO BE REVIEWED JUNE 2017

Hazeldene Lower School  
Collective Worship Policy

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.

Aims

- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To help all pupils to acquire respect for religious and moral values and an unprejudiced view of other races, religions and ways of life
- To create a caring community, exercising concern and respect for others

Statutory Duty of School

We provide daily collective worship for registered pupils. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

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

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### Implementation

It is important to recognise that attitudes towards religion generally, and to Christianity specifically, will be various so far as pupils, parents and teachers are concerned and that freedom of individual belief should be respected. Pupils should learn to understand and respect the values of those whose race, culture, background, upbringing or beliefs are different from their own.

This will mean providing occasions when those who have a degree of commitment can express it, while, at the same time, enabling those whose commitment is less, or different, to learn something of what such an act of worship can mean to those who take an active part.

This means the interpretation of an act of worship in broad terms.

Collective worship will seek to:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the pupils.

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of the morning assembly from Monday to Thursday. A Friday afternoon 'whole school' assembly is used to celebrate individual and group achievement and attainment and collective worship will also be an element of this.

The assemblies are normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, but may sometimes be led by local clergy or representatives of local faith communities.

### Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

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