



Hyde Park Infant School Collective Worship Policy

Aims and purpose

At Hyde Park Infant School we feel that worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all children, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. Throughout the year there are opportunities for all parents to attend a special collective worship session which is led by their child's class.

At Hyde Park Infant School we recognise that Collective Worship is an important time to provide opportunities for our children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

It is our aim at Hyde Park Infant School that worship should:

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils through making use of the SEAL programme.
- give expression to, and reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity respond to Christian language and symbolism and that of other faith groups.
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection.
- to help children to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for an understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship'. We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

To provide children with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Head Teacher who has the responsibility for co-ordinating Collective Worship in the school with governors' approval.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By broadly Christian in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. learning from the parables that Jesus told.
- Sharing with children the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus' work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as Love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.

Acts of Collective Worship at Hyde Park Infant School take into account the children's ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds including the diverse tapestry of ethnicities, cultures and religions practices and beliefs.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of children. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to worship will be marked by a short notification.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Hyde Park Infant School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Hyde Park Infant School.

Organisation

Day	Person Leading	Main Hall
Monday	Music Coordinator/Headteacher	Whole School (11.30)
Tuesday	Class teacher	Whole School (11.40)

Wednesday	Headteacher	Whole School (11.40)
Thursday	Class Teacher	Whole School (11.40)
Friday	Headteacher	Whole school (10.10)

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship based on SEAL or a celebratory theme chosen by an individual class that recognises the children's achievements and contributions. These are published at the beginning of the year. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the children will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The Chair of governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator in the Headteacher's office. There are also musical resources in the storage cupboard in the hall.

Worship Element

During collective worship there will be time in which children will be given the opportunity to develop a worshipful attitude through quiet reflection and if appropriate prayer. Collective worship will be demarcated by a prayer or reflective picture relating to the theme of the week, indicating to the children that time for reflection and worship has begun.

Outside Speakers

Visitors can make a valuable and enhancing contribution to a children's act of worship. The overall planning, leadership and control will remain the responsibility of the worship coordinator. It will also be their responsibility for ensuring that the speaker is fully briefed and prepared in accordance with this policy.

Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity have speakers from all faith groups as well as an extensive range of contacts and resources that can be drawn upon for further support.