



**Hindhayes Infant School**  
**Collective Worship Policy**  
**September 2024**

At Hindhayes, we believe success is based on the partnerships between pupils, staff and the parent community. We endeavour to enrich and develop each child to be a successful individual that will become an active community citizen of the future.

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Role: \_\_\_\_\_

**Policy rationale:**

The School collective worship policy reflects and reinforces many of the school's aims.

The common strands are:

- care and support;
- respect and responsibility;
- reflective self-development;
- relationships.

**Aims**

In keeping with this rationale, collective worship at Hindhayes Infant School is planned to:

- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- provide a worthwhile educational experience which takes account of pupils' age, aptitude and family background;
- provide opportunities for staff, pupils and members of the wider community to contribute to the life of the School;
- provide opportunities for worshipping God, reverence, celebration and reflection; enable pupils to reflect on broadly Christian and other worthwhile values and beliefs;
- provide a worship experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths;
- provide pupils with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to".

The positive educational outcomes of collective worship at Hindhayes Infant School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness.

**Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of collective worship which, in community schools, should not be distinctive of the tradition and practice of particular religious denominations. The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

**Withdrawal from collective worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. Teachers, including headteachers, have the same right of withdrawal.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of collective worship is available.

In community schools collective worship is to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.' Denominational schools should provide collective worship in line with their foundation.

The programme of collective worship at Hindhayes is arranged so that in any one term most acts of collective worship will reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and practice.

**Content of the collective worship programme**

According to the government guidance (circular 1/94):

- 'Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs' (para 50).
- 'Worship must in some sense reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power' (para 57), and
- 'An act of worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief need not contain only Christian material. It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ' (para 63).

Material for assemblies comes from a wide variety of sources including Christian. Most assemblies in any term reflect traditions of Christian belief and the special status accorded to Jesus Christ.

## **Organisation of collective worship**

**The programme of acts of collective worship** is coordinated by the Religious Education Specialist in conjunction with the Headteacher.

### **1. Whole School Assemblies**

Headteacher Monday assembly – Once a week the children gather for an assembly linked to Christian values, the school's values, better learning powers, Curriculum For Life focus or significant community themes.

Celebration assembly – On a Friday the School gathers for this assembly, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated.

### **2. Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship**

Certain named individuals are involved on a regular basis with the assembly programme.

'Open the Book' team from the Baptist Church - Bible Story Whole School Assembly on Wednesday.

Louise Melia – Salvation Army Christian based Whole School Assembly on a Tuesday.

Emma Plumber – Singing and Music specialist Whole School singing assembly including songs of praise and worship on Thursday.

### **3. Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of collective worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed.

Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the headteacher.