

# Hasland Junior School

## Policy for Collective Worship & Assembly

## **Purpose of the policy**

The purpose of this policy is to define the approach to collective worship & assembly at Hasland Junior School.

The Collective Worship Policy at Hasland Junior School follows the guidance of:

- School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Section 70 . Schedule 20
- Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship

*'In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.* (ERA 1988, Education Act 1993)

ERA (1988) and the Education Act (1993) state that acts of worship may contain certain elements drawn from a number of different faiths, but that within each term, the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.

## **The Law**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship.

Arrangements are made for children who are withdrawn from collective worship. All children will be provided with appropriate classwork and will be supervised by members of staff.

Staff, equally, have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

The Education Reform Act does not define collective worship. At Hasland Junior School we focus on someone or something promoting spiritual, moral, social, cultural and physical development of all children. Worship is to do with worth and worthiness.

## **The Purpose of Collective worship**

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development

## **Aims of Collective Worship**

- To provide opportunity for an experience of worship
- To reflect on values and concerns of the school community and the community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child's emotional response
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding

## **Objectives of Collective Worship**

To develop a sense of:

- Awe, wonder and mystery
- Interdependence with the natural world
- Pattern, sequence and order
- Self-worth and value of others

To develop an awareness:

- That life involves choices of belief/attitude/behaviour/relationships
- That there are issues of meaning, purpose and value in life

At Hasland Junior School, our collective worship is broadly Christian but is distinct from corporate worship within a faith group. There are occasions when other faiths are the focus during collective worship, (for example festivals, holy days etc).

All collective worship is based on the principles that they should be:

- Inclusive, by:
  - being pupil centred, related to pupils own experience and relevant to pupil concerns
  - acknowledging diversity

- involving pupils as active participants wherever possible
- matching the needs of pupils
- Educational by:
  - ensuring information is accurate
- Spiritual by:
  - fostering a sense of community

It should also contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. They include worship and/or Christian worship and are seen as special times where children can feel secure and relaxed and share with others to foster a feeling of community.

Occasionally visiting speakers are invited in to lead collective worship.

## **The Purpose of Assembly**

Assemblies should:

- be inclusive
- be educational.
- relate to pupils' own experiences
- be properly planned
- relate to other curriculum activities
- provide the school with opportunities to reflect on the education it provides, including pastoral care and safeguarding
- have a purpose and celebrate educational achievements
- be consistent with the aims of the school
- be spiritual, allowing reflection
- allow children to feel calm, relaxed and secure

- include a variety of words, music and images
- provide opportunities for children to take part

## **Planning**

Assemblies are planned on a regular basis to follow a theme that promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Assemblies overlap with Collective Worship and can cover religious events and special days but will also include special events in the life of the school. There is also much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope and request and we will place these as high priorities.

The themes planned enable the children to reflect on matters of importance and offer them the chance to respond through a variety of activities, songs, music making, hymns, drama, role-play, the visual arts, silent thought and discussion.

## **Expectations / Procedures**

- Children are expected to enter and leave quietly
- While the children are in the hall they sit in classes on the floor
- Music is played at the start and end of the assembly from a variety of sources which may reflect the theme of the assembly or the age of the child
- A hymn or appropriate song relevant to the theme of the week may be sung and generally the computer / projector is used
- Occasionally visiting speakers are invited
- The majority of meetings last for a period of approximately 15 minutes

At Hasland junior School our main priority is that children enjoy assembly. This is monitored through the School Council.

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Reviewed by: Matthew Winson, Headteacher