



## **Hampden Gurney Church of England Primary School** **Collective Worship Policy**

### **1 Aims and purpose**

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the 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 develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

### **2 Legal Status of Collective Worship**

The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

**The School Standards and Framework Act 1998**

### **3 Collective worship**

3.1 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 actively participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

3.2 While the acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also recognise and value the traditions and culture of other religious practices that are represented in the school and the wider community.

### **4. Right of Withdrawal**

We seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship.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

In VA schools teachers including the head teacher do not have the right of withdrawal.

This right of withdrawal doesn't extend to assemblies.

## **5 Organisation of collective worship**

5.1 We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each daily assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly.

5.2 We hold a weekly Mass said by the parish priest.

5.3 We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. 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.

5.4 Pupils are invited out to say spontaneous prayers during assemblies and are also encouraged to write prayers, either in lessons or voluntarily at home, which may be read out by them or the adult in charge if they prefer. Prayers are also said before lunch and at the end of the day.

5.4 The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

5.5 We use a variety of resources including the London Diocesan Board of Education thematic units for collective worship which are based on the traditions of the Christian faith – This includes reflection of the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. I.C.T. links are made and suggested resources are clearly identified.

5.6 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 schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Hampden Gurney Church of England Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.

5.7 We welcome parents' and governors' attendance at all assemblies and acts of worship and especially at our family services. These are held at least termly and are in addition to the Celebratory assemblies held at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. They may take place at our Parish Church of the Annunciation, Marble Arch.

## **6 Monitoring and review**

6.1 It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher and RE co-ordinator before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

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