



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed May 2019

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils to worship and reflect;
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To teach pupils how to worship.

Collective worship

We believe that worship is a special act or occasion whose purpose is to encourage pupils to reflect. Collective worship at Pound Hill Infant Academy involves our children coming together to participate in an assembly.

At Pound Hill Infant Academy, we are extremely fortunate to have a diverse span of cultures and religious beliefs across our families. As a result we ensure that although our assemblies are in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we ensure that our assemblies reflect the religious traditions that are represented in the academy and the wider community.

The majority of acts of worship in our academy are Christian, but we have many families who follow other religions and as a result we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of our academy.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our academy, which includes reflection thinking time.

We pride ourselves in conducting assemblies in a dignified and respectful way and share with our children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a valued time, due to the whole school community coming together during this time and as such expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

The Principal and members of the Senior Leadership Team lead our assemblies, but we also relish the opportunity for members of our local community, including those involved with organisations such as the Lighthouse Project to visit the academy and lead assemblies on our behalf.

We take the themes of our assemblies from various sources including our PSHCE curriculum, British Values and SMSC planning. We ensure that we dedicate appropriate time during assemblies to celebrating the festivals and events of the Christian calendar and other religious calendars observed by the children within our academy. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place, ensuring that our children learn from the ethical and moral teaching which comes from them. Our assemblies are planned in order to complement the RE curriculum where appropriate.

We hold a Celebration Assembly every Friday, where the Principal invites each class teacher to share details surrounding our children's achievements for that week. This is an assembly which the children and staff all look forward to, as it encapsulates the success and hard work of our children and celebrates this with the rest of the academy community.

Right of Withdrawal

We do expect all pupils to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Principal keeps a record of all pupils who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of our Local Board to monitor this policy and our academy practice of collective worship. Any concerns raised with the Principal are acted upon as required.

Policy Status and Review

Written by:	Principal
Status:	Approved
Approval date:	May 2019
Review date:	May 2020