Heatherside Infant School – Collective Worship Policy

POLICY TYPE	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED	REVIEW CYCLE	NEXT REVIEW
Curriculum	HT/RE subject leader Curriculum Committee	Summer 2025	3 Years	Summer 2028

As a school, we follow the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act and Education Act 1993. Collective Worship is part of the school day and forms part of our SMSC Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural development aspects of school life.

'*The Education Reform Act 1988 sets out as the central aim for the school curriculum that it should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.' (Circular number 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship).*

Each day the children will be gathered together in classes, year groups or as a whole school, to participate in an act of worship. This will provide a time of unity and belonging when the school can be as one to share, reflect, celebrate and recollect. The act of worship will be mainly of a broadly Christian character, although being, at all times non-denominational. Worship, being an integral part of the school day, is a time when the whole school can experience, celebrate and participate with a sense of community, allowing children to deepen their sense of wonder of the world around them. Worship takes place in the hall or classroom depending upon the group assembled.

A framework of themes and assembly schedule for each term will be used to plan for collective worship which will be based on broad principles and values of a Christian character and be sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community. These chosen themes will include not only our school values, but also the sharing of traditions, customs and experiences to broaden experiences for the children. These may last for half a term, a week, or just a day.

Monday	Whole school theme
Tuesday	Class Assembly - Picture News
Wednesday	Singing Assembly
Thursday	Class Assembly - school theme
Friday	Celebration Assembly

Children in Reception classes will have a gradual integration into whole school Collective Worship, following initial class or year group gatherings.

Each week children's achievements in relation to our whole school values - Respect, Kindness, Integrity, Togetherness, Resilience and Creativity - are rewarded and celebrated during Celebration Assembly.

Aim

Within collective worship we aim to offer the children the following opportunities:

- to be part of a large or small gathering and experience a sense of community - and becoming increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school, or wider community
- to respond to, and be an active participant in presentations of reading, music, drama, dance and other sources of inspiration
- to celebrate special occasions and achievements with awe, wonder, elation, gratitude, respect and reverence
- to share and experience music and songs as an opportunity for celebration, praise and reflection.
- to acknowledge British Values
- to recognise and acknowledge diversity
- to reflect on things of worth and those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us.
- to share and experience a time in the busy school day when they children and staff can come together for a quiet time of peacefulness, stillness and reflection.

Collective Worship will be appropriate for the age of the children and take into consideration the diversity of experiences and family backgrounds.

Collective Worship may be led by the Headteacher, deputy or staff, a class of children, a small group of children, the governors, support staff, parents, or visitors from local community groups.

All visiting presenters will be made aware of the age of the children. It will be necessary for the presenter to have given a brief resume of the content of their presentation and made known any special resources required to the Headteacher.

Equal Opportunities

Every effort is made to enable all the children to experience opportunities to explore and share ideas and reflect, respond and celebrate together regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, educational needs and for those whom English is an additional language.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from participating in acts of Collective Worship. Requests for this must be made in writing to the headteacher, who will then meet with the parents to discuss this. Teachers and support staff are entitled to withdraw from Collective Worship. For those parents who wish their child to be withdrawn from collective worship, alternative arrangements for supervision of the child will be provided.

Children with Special Educational Needs are supported to be included in collective worship.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the School Equality Policy and Inclusion Policy.