



Cranford Primary School
Berkeley Avenue
Hounslow
TW4 6LB

Collective Worship Policy

Date: November 2024

Review Date: Autumn 2026 (or sooner if changes to the law or practice).

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

In accordance with legal requirements the school provides a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils. Collective worship in our school takes place within the context of an assembly and we believe it plays a major part in establishing and promoting the ethos of our school. It is made to be a special time, different from the rest of the school day and a time for the children to reflect and to consider a whole range of issues and feelings.

Within this we acknowledge that the act of collective worship makes a significant contribution to the children's moral and spiritual development. It should provide a context in which they can experience feelings such as awe, wonder, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence, and also if appropriate, prayer.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

The school was granted a "determination" by London Borough of Hounslow's SACRE. The determination provides an exemption for the school from the requirement that the majority of acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character".

This determination was granted in recognition of the diverse range of religious and non-religious backgrounds of our school community as it helps meet the needs of everyone in the school. Our approach is educational in nature and promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life as young citizens living in a multicultural and multi-faith society. As the UK is a Christian country we place high value on promoting and celebrating key Christian events throughout the year. We will also continue to mark the main religious festivals and occasions of other principal religious traditions.

"Guidance on Applying for a Determination" is contained within the London Borough of Hounslow's Collective Worship Guidelines.

Aims

We believe an act of Collective Worship should:

- encourage children to think about their own beliefs and morals
- to offer opportunities for pray and worship
- provide opportunities to develop and explore “inner self” and to strengthen it
- provide opportunities for reflective thought
- develop a sense of school as a community and a sense of belonging
- develop an awareness and consideration of other’s beliefs
- satisfy legal requirements
- provide a “special time” during the school day which is recognisably different
- contribute to the positive ethos of the school
- provide the opportunity to share experiences in and out of the school
- celebrate difference and diversity

Planning

At present, the school has a termly programme of themes for assemblies and collective worship linked to SMSC curriculum (Spiritual, Moral, and Social & Cultural) and these take place either as a whole school in the hall or in individual classrooms. Assemblies and collective worship are led by senior staff and class teachers as well as from time to time by other invited leaders.

The inclusion of our programme of Understanding me, understanding you provides children with opportunities to discuss, reflect and learn from one another. The basis of this provides time for collective worship to take place however in a way that is not biased to one faith.

Class assemblies will either follow the themes set in the termly programme or focus on a particular theme which is appropriate to the needs of the class at that time. A resource list is provided with each termly programme to indicate where activities and stories on the various themes can be found in the different assembly books.

Whole school assembly and collective worship

- assembly leader will set up the hall ready for arrival of children including the playing of music to create an appropriate atmosphere
- children will enter the hall in a calm and quiet manner and they are expected to listen to the music while waiting for everyone to arrive
- children are then expected to sit quietly and listen during the assembly and only in exceptional circumstances should be allowed to leave the hall.
- there are members of staff in attendance at assemblies and it is their responsibility to ensure the appropriate behaviour of the children depending on circumstances.
- staff who are not staying for assembly must stay with their class until other staff have arrived
- the assembly may include discussion and a story related to the theme and include the children in active participation as much as possible

- the act of collective worship may be identified in a range of ways including the lighting of a candle, the playing of a piece of music, a period of silence or reflection, singing, dancing or the reading of a poem or prayer
- class teachers must ensure appropriate arrangements are made for children in their class who are withdrawn from the daily act of collective worship

Class assembly and collective worship

Setting the scene and creating a special atmosphere are particularly important aspects of collective worship in the classroom. This may be achieved by having a distinctive seating arrangement, a notice on the classroom door to indicate it is a special time and the class should not be disturbed, music, different lighting arrangements or a focal point such as a candle, incense, artefacts or flowers.

Equal Opportunities, Race Equality and Cultural Diversity

To ensure equality of opportunity we believe an act of Collective Worship should:

- respect the integrity and dignity of all pupils and staff
- be without imposition and allow for freedom of own belief
- be inclusive so that everyone can both contribute to it and gain from it and participate in it if this is appropriate
- show that diversity within each faith is recognised and avoid making generalisations such as “Christians believe.... or all Hindus....”
- members of faith communities involved in worship reflect the diversity of backgrounds
- resources used are reflective of the different faiths and communities

Resources

There is currently an extensive range of artefacts, posters, music and books available for Religious Education and Collective Worship.

A resource box for each of the major religions is kept under the stage.

In using artefacts, staff should always be aware that they do not cause offence to any child or person by the way the artefacts are used or handled.

Health and Safety

Health and safety issues mainly centre around the use of candles and matches in the classroom or hall. Every care should be taken to ensure their safe use and the safety of the children.

Parental and Community Involvement

Parents and guardians are invited to attend assemblies on a regular basis. We feel this gives them the opportunity to share in the way the school celebrates and values the children's achievements and to help them to understand the ethos and atmosphere of the school. Throughout the year the school holds special assemblies which acknowledge the major festivals of our faith communities and parents are also invited to these.

Other members of the wider school community are also invited to join the school for assemblies during the year.

The Role of the Co-ordinator

In addition to the standard job description for a curriculum co-ordinator, the co-ordinator for collective worship must:

- establish ways to involve parents, Governors and visitors in Collective Worship
- draw up a termly Collective Worship programme in consultation with staff

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be monitored by the co-ordinator through the termly assembly plans and through the monitoring of class teachers' weekly planning.

The policy will be evaluated at least annually as part of the whole school end of year review and any revisions to its organisation or content implemented in the new academic year.