

Horniman Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Implemented:	September 2016
Reviewed and updated:	January 2022
Review date:	January 2024
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Introduction

What is collective worship?

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes DFE 1998

Collective worship is a means whereby the school community comes together in order to celebrate and reflect upon those values it considers important to promote.

Worship can be defined as “a form of human activity when we purposely put ourselves in the position of paying particular attention to those things in life which have the greatest meaning for us.”

For many people worship involves a commitment to a belief in God.

At Horniman school collective worship time is referred to as assembly time. All staff have a clear understanding of the nature and content of collective worship.

The law on collective worship.

- Collective worship must be provided daily
- Collective worship may take place at any time in the school day
- Schools may decide on the groupings of pupils and this may vary from day to day
- The times decided for the delivery of collective worship may vary from day to day
- The content of the majority of acts of collective worship in a term should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the broad tradition of Christian belief”
- The content should have regard for the family backgrounds, ages and aptitudes of pupils
- Parents may withdraw their children from collective worship
- Teachers may withdraw from collective worship
- The responsibility for managing the provision of collective worship is with the headteacher after consultation with the governors
- Every maintained school is required under the 1996 Education regulations to include in its prospectus information about collective worship provided by the school and how parents may withdraw their children from it.

What is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature?

- It can mean incorporating elements that Christians might recognise from their worship e.g. songs music stories, learning from good example of others, readings from holy books.
- It does not mean creating a pretence of Christian worship.
- It does mean promoting values that Christians believe to be important. These may be and often are values held to be important by other faiths as well.
- It does not need to contain any elements of Christian ritual or liturgy.

This policy works within and helps promote the **vision and aims of the school**

Horniman Primary School's Vision:

To nurture and guide the whole child to be a happy, independent learner, with the confidence to achieve their maximum potential, the resilience to embrace challenges and with respect for each other and the world around them.

We aim to achieve our vision by:

- Ensuring the school is fit for purpose, safe and caring, and which fosters relationships built on respect
- Designing a stimulating, creative and engaging curriculum that is both accessible and challenging

- Nurturing a body of staff who are highly trained and motivated
- Enabling a whole school philosophy of 'learning without limits'
- Making a contribution to the communities in which we live
- Building understanding of how to create economic and environmental sustainability
- Actively tackle inequalities and celebrate diversity

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Horniman Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Children:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- celebrate different religions
- experience the sense of gathering for a special purpose
- share an experience which promotes thought and reflection
- consider spiritual, moral and cultural issues
- explore their own and others beliefs
- develop their own spirituality; reflecting quietly and making an internal response in the light of personal beliefs
- reinforce positive attitudes and values
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human
- debate issues
- consider the wonders and worries of the world
- reinforce Fundamental British Values

Horniman School is a community school and the children in the school have a range of cultural and religious backgrounds. Collective worship is delivered in a way which assures children that all of their faith or cultural backgrounds are of equal status and validity. All experiences provided should be inclusive and sensitive to the needs of all children.

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, at Horniman Primary School, Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

Organisation for Collective Worship

During the course of the week collective worship takes place in different size groups-whole school, Key Stage and class groups.

Collective worship is organised in a way which helps promote its aims.

Children are expected to enter and leave the hall in silence and to sit quietly.

Children are given the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas or to reflect quietly. This reflection time is referred to as "thinking time" in the large group assemblies or may take the form of circle time in class assemblies.

Timings, groupings and themes

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class assemblies	KS1/Reception 10.30-11.00 Singing assembly	Y1-Y6 10.15 – 10.45 Headteacher's	KS2 10.30-10.45 What a Star KS1 10.45- 11.00 What a Star	Whole school 9.30-9.45 Class assemblies, festivals and debates (not every week) KS2 10.15-10.45 Singing assembly

Children should come down to assembly in silence and in their arranged assembly order and should be led by the teacher. Teachers are responsible for settling their classes and if present in assembly for ensuring good behaviour in as quiet a way as possible.

There may be children in the school who do not attend religious assemblies. If you are leading an assembly that has a religious content; staff should be informed in morning briefing and arrangements made for identified children to have alternative arrangements e.g. stay in a classroom.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Type and theme of collective worship

Headteacher's Assembly

A focus on the 5 Keys to success, the school aims and values. It also focuses on current affairs, religious festivals and issues pertinent to the school.

If the Headteacher is not present, then it is taken by another member of the SLT.

What a Star

A celebration of achievement and the 5 Keys to Success. It includes a reflection on personal achievements and how to make changes and improve. This is led by different members of staff on a rotational basis.

Classroom Assembly

This is usually in the form of a circle time and will reflect upon any pertinent issues in the class, school or wider community. This is planned by the class teacher.

Singing Assembly

There is a focus on celebration. The songs are carefully selected and meanings and the feelings they evoke are discussed and explored. The songs are usually linked to a whole school or Key Stage theme and are presented in a special performance at the end of each term. This is planned by the music subject leader.

Class Assemblies

These focus on celebrating achievement and presenting their learning to a wider audience. Parents/Carers are invited to these assemblies. Each class presents an assembly in the Spring Term. These are planned by the staff and children in the class concerned.

Debates

Three times a year we hold whole school debates based around topical issues. All the children from Y2-Y6 consider a statement and prepare an argument for or against. A selection of children are chosen to share their arguments and children can ask questions. Votes are taken before and after the arguments to see who agrees and disagrees with the statement and whether anybody

has changed their viewpoint and why. These are planned by the whole staff through discussion at staff meetings.

Festival Assemblies

A selection of festivals from the main religions in the school and community are celebrated throughout the year. (See timetable below) We also celebrate some national days (for example Remembrance Day) and the work of various charities. Wherever possible a visitor, a member of staff, parent or child who celebrates that festival is invited to speak. These are planned by the Assistant Headteacher.

Festival Calendar

The following festivals will be celebrated in Assembly (others may be added if appropriate)

Christianity	Islam	Hinduism	Sikhism	Buddhism	Judaism	Other
Christmas Easter Harvest	Ramadan Eid al Fitr	Holi Diwali	Birth of Guru Nanak	Vesak (Buddha day)	Hanukah Purim	Chinese New Year

Use of visitors

The school sees this as providing an important element of collective worship to draw on experiences and beliefs of people within the local community. When a visitor is invited to speak in the school they are sent an email outlining how collective worship is delivered at Horniman School. There is a risk assessment that vets potential visiting speakers to ensure that they promote Fundamental British Values, the aims of the school and the Prevent Strategy. Those with extreme or fundamental views will not be allowed to visit the school.

Mindfulness

All children participate in daily mindfulness sessions after lunch. These last approximately 5-10 minutes. Class teachers may also plan additional mindfulness or yoga activities during the week, as appropriate. The aim is to reflect upon the present moment and emerge feeling calmer and more centred.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

Recording and monitoring

All assemblies are recorded on the school calendar and on the server. There is a brief account of each assembly and a record of materials used.

Information for parents

A copy of this policy will be published on the school website with information about how to withdraw their child if they so wish.

The right to withdraw children from collective worship

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all

children feel comfortable to attend the assembly. However, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

The right of staff to withdraw from collective worship

Staff have the right to withdraw their child from any act or acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the head teacher: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

Links with other policies

The school has a RE policy and scheme of work based of the Lewisham SACRE. The content covered in the RE curriculum can be viewed at:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/religious-education-in-schools/religious-education-syllabus-for-schools-in-the-borough>

Religious education is a subject of the curriculum and as such is not taught through collective worship. Collective worship is seen as a quality experience and although pupils will learn from it, an act of collective worship is not seen as a lesson.