



HIGH BEECHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

January 2024

Review January 2027

Context

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers receiving services from the school, irrespective of race, gender, disability, faith or religion or socio-economic background. We aim to develop and promote culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school develop a strong sense of self-worth, feeling proud of their individual identity and of their membership of the school family, and able to participate fully in the life of the school.

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age pupils take part in a *daily act of collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character*¹. This should *be appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils and their ages and aptitudes*¹.

Some children and staff at High Beeches are from practising Christian families and some have an affinity to the Christian faith; there are those who are from faiths other than Christianity and those from non-religious backgrounds. Collective worship should be inclusive of and accessible to all and, although we hope all will feel comfortable being included, pupils and staff do have a right to withdraw from collective worship. Those wishing to do so should discuss this with the headteacher.

Rationale

Our aspiration is that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community, whatever their background or belief. It does not seek to evangelise or convert, but seeks to bring the school family together for an invitational shared experience of community that goes beyond the everyday and the purely educational. It acknowledges the spiritual side of the human condition and provides opportunities to celebrate things that are special and of value and to respond to individual, school-wide, local and global events and issues.

Intent

- To provide a safe, open space in which to explore experiences of ourselves as individuals, of relationships with others and of creation.
- To celebrate, affirm and nurture the school's vision and values, whilst building a sense of self-worth in individuals and a shared sense of community.
- To foster spiritual and self-awareness, enabling pupils and staff to develop personally and to grow spiritually.
- To provide opportunities to reflect on and respond to significant issues and events in their lives and in the lives of others, including those of local, national and global importance.
- To celebrate key festivals in the Christian calendar and those of other faiths, particularly those represented in our community.
- To celebrate achievement in all its forms.

Implementation

Daily acts of collective worship take place in a variety of groups and locations across the school. The week begins with a whole school *thought for the week* assembly with the whole school, either as one large group or in two sessions with the same assembly adapted to suit a group of younger and older pupils. These are often closely matched to the focus school value for the half-term or to an event of religious or societal significance in the Christian calendar, that of other faiths or a national or global initiative or event. During the week, each class has a class assembly, a year group assembly and a key

¹ Education Reform Act, 1988 and Education Act, 1993



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stage music assembly. The week finishes with celebration assemblies in phase groups, where pupils' achievement is celebrated through the awarding of certificates and the celebration of birthdays from the current week.

Assemblies are led by school staff, pupils and visitors. Assembly leaders present in a lively and engaging way, using story, drama, pictures, digital media and questions, and pupils and staff are often encouraged to participate actively and are always invited to respond in some way. This might include a moment of quiet reflection, a song or a prayer.

Visitors from local churches and other community groups attend or lead (usually whole school, often Monday) assemblies at least once per half-term. This might include, for example a church minister leading our harvest festival or a church group presenting an Easter reflection, representatives of local democracy, such as the mayor, and representatives of local charities, such as a foodbank or homeless shelter.

Impact

Times of collective worship should stand out and provide a sense of occasion and of something 'other'. They help to promote, maintain and grow the sense of the school as a family, where each individual person is valued and where their unique personality and gifts are valued. Through it, pupils and staff develop a sense of self in the context of our community. They develop an understanding of and support for our school values and explore a range of human emotions, such as joy and sadness through, for example, celebration and remembrance.

Appendix - *the High Beeches School Values*

kindness	resilience	happiness	friendship
confidence	respect	empathy	cooperation
self-belief	responsibility	honesty	positivity