



Harlands Collective Worship Policy

November 2024



‘Striving for excellence for everyone, valuing everyone and our world’

Vision

‘Striving for excellence, valuing everyone and our world’

‘A tree has roots in the soil yet reaches to the sky.
It tells us that in order to aspire we need to be grounded and that
no matter how high we go it is from our roots we draw sustenance.’

Golden Threads: Curriculum and Values

There is a tune for everyone



Ethos

Open your eyes, empowered you feel strong



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The legal requirements for Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Act stated that:

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day;
- the act of collective worship may be as a whole school or in different age groupings;
- it may happen at any time of the school day;
- it has to take place on school premises;
- the Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the legal requirements for Collective Worship are met;
- the character and content of collective worship in these schools continues to be determined by governing bodies in accordance with their Trust Deeds;
- all staff, including the Headteacher have the legal right to withdraw from the Act of Collective worship. The Headteacher remains responsible for finding someone suitable to organise and lead the acts of worship;
- all parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, wholly or partially. The school's responsibility for the child's health and safety is still paramount.

An academy's funding agreement should mirror the requirements for acts of collective worship in local authority-maintained schools. This legislation is set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 70.

Academies should follow paragraphs 50 to 88 of the Department for Education's guidance on collective worship in schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools>

Each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents/carers. This applies to academies with and without a religious designation. A termly overview of planned content can be found on the website however, it must be noted that this is subject to change.

Academies without a religious designation must provide collective worship that is wholly, or mainly, of a broadly Christian character. A school can reflect the religious backgrounds represented in its community, as long as the majority of provision is broadly Christian.



Aims for Collective Worship at Harlands:

- to be offered to all children of compulsory school age;
- if a class are off site and miss a collective worship session then best efforts will be made to make up the time;
- to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of the children;
- to raise awareness of the school values and what these 'look like' in every-day life;
- to promote the British values as defined by the Department for Education - detailed in Appendix A;
- to encourage staff and children to think globally, to value respect and appreciate all cultures and religions;
- to offer opportunities to celebrate the success of the school, the staff and the children;
- to be educational, to offer an intentional learning experience and be a worthwhile part of the school day which children, and staff, enjoy;
- to offer the opportunity to promote the ethos of the school and share in our sense of community;
- to be an inclusive experience which all can contribute to and, from which, all can gain;
- to provide an opportunity for reflection and offer a moment's peace within the school day;
- to offer opportunities for staff and children to perform in front of an audience and respond appropriately to such performances;
- to provide a context within which staff and children can be joined by members of the wider community.

Collective Worship and Assembly Plan (revised annually)

Day	Time	Type	Venue	Staff
Monday	10:10-10:30	Whole School Assembly: • half of school (Y1,3 & 5) • half of school (Y2,4 & 6)	Hall	Headteacher
	10:45-11:05			
Tuesday	Flexible (10:00-10:30)	Collective Worship	Classrooms	Teachers
Wednesday	Flexible	KS2 Collective Worship	Classrooms	Teachers
	10:00-10:30	Reception (Early Years)	Hall	Deputy Headteacher
Thursday	Flexible (10:00-10:30)	Collective Worship	Classrooms	Teachers
	10.00am – 10.30am	Key Stage 1 Assembly	Hall	Headteacher
Friday	10.00am – 10.30am	Key Stage 2 Assembly	Hall	Headteacher
	Flexible	KS1 Collective Worship	Classrooms	Teachers

1. Planning

The Headteacher will plan the themes for the collective worship aspect of assemblies on an annual basis. Teachers leading assemblies will link the content of their Collective Worship to the overall planning and use relevant resources where appropriate. Where Collective Worship is a part of an assembly, it may include music, prayer or reflection, reports, drama, notices and organisational information. Assemblies are an opportunity to celebrate and learn, the focus of planning and delivery is therefore asset-led rather than deficit-based. Assembly themes and learning outcomes will not be based on reprimanding children.



Class teachers are responsible for ensuring that the children are engaged in collective worship either as a class or year group on the days when there is no assembly scheduled. This should follow the broad aims outlined above.

2. Special Occasions

At certain times of the year, special assemblies will be arranged and parents may be invited to join.

These include:

Harvest

- Children bring gifts for chosen beneficiaries and a special assembly is organised

Christmas

- EYFS and KS1 children perform a Christmas Nativity for KS2 and parents.
- KS2 children lead the school in Carol Service held at St. Wilfrid's Church.

Easter

- An Easter assembly enables everyone to gather together to celebrate Easter.

End of year

- A celebration assembly allows us to send good wishes to the children and staff who are leaving.

In addition to raising awareness of special occasions in Collective Worship we also facilitate before events that celebrate our school, local and global community.

3. Attendance at Collective Worship

Reception (EYFS) children have their own separate daily class assemblies and join the whole school for special occasions including Harvest, Christmas and end of term assemblies. Reception class teachers will gradually introduce the children to Collective Worship within the class group and year group prior to them attending whole school gatherings.

4. Parents/carers

Parents/carers have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from the act of collective worship. Parents should talk this through with the Headteacher. Children who are withdrawn will be given an activity to do during Collective Worship, they will then be welcomed for the remainder of the assembly. All children are expected to enter and leave the hall quietly for assembly. All staff will actively promote this. Assembly should be maintained/respected as a special time of day.

5. Class / Year Group assemblies

To promote Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, these should include a time for the promotion of British values (see appendix), thinking / sharing/ listening / stillness. Sometimes the use of a special focus, music and drama are included.



References:

1944 Education Act

1988 Education Reform Act: Religious Education and Collective Worship Circular 3/89

Author: Sally Nixey / David McKeown-Webster

Date of Policy: November 24

Date Agreed by Governing Body: 20 November 2024

Date of next Review: Oct 2025

Appendix A

Promoting British values at Harlands Primary School

The Department for Education published guidance (2014) on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.

The guidance aims to help both independent and state-maintained schools understand their responsibilities in this area. All have a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

At Harlands Primary School, we promote the fundamental British values through SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) education and collective worship to ensure our children develop a strong sense of social and moral responsibility which will prepare them for life in modern Britain.

Democracy and The Rule of Law

Democracy underpins school life. We value pupil voice. Through School Council meetings, circle time, pupil questionnaires and class worry boxes we invite the children to share their learning, as well as their concerns and ideas for making the school even better. House Captains and School Councillors are elected by the pupils. Our school [Behaviour Policy](#) rewards children for taking responsibility and making sensible choices. They discuss and understand the need for consequences and that individual behaviour has an impact upon others. The school sanctions systems encourage reflection and thinking about the impact of their choices. We use relevant resources to help promote SMSC during PSHE lessons and in Collective Worship and Assemblies, where children learn about the importance of having rules and how these relate to laws.

Children are taught the reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when the laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the community police and fire officers are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Within school, children are encouraged to be independent and make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment to do so. During PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic), E-Safety lessons and assemblies, children are taught about how to keep themselves safe whilst exercising personal rights and freedoms. Safeguarding is embedded in every aspect of school life.



Mutual Respect

Our school ethos and Behaviour Policy are based upon our core values, including mutual trust, friendship, forgiveness and compassion. Pupils are involved in discussions and assemblies to develop their understanding of respect. Adults model respect with one another and with the children in how we speak and treat one another. School assemblies include a focus on respect each term.

Tolerance of those of Different Faith and Beliefs

The school is a diverse community and we embrace these differences as strength. We teach understanding of the beliefs of other faiths in RE lessons. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. In addition, discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying are supported by learning in assemblies, RE and PSHE.