

HOLT FARM INFANT SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT FOR ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP 2016

Aims

- To provide the opportunity for pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To encourage participation and response.
- To develop community spirit, promote shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.
- To celebrate achievements and special occasions for the pupils and the school.
- To reflect and celebrate activities in school.

Assembly/Class Assembly & RE

Children are able to learn about the different forms of worship. Each assembly includes an opportunity for prayer and contemplation.

Legal Requirements

Requirements relating to management and organisation

- All registered pupils (apart from those who are withdrawn by their parents) must *“on each school day take part in an act of collective worship”*.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and teachers have the right to withdraw themselves. The right can be exercised for any reason: it does not have to be on grounds of conscience. Teachers should not be disqualified from employment or discriminated against in terms of pay or promotion if they choose to exercise their right of withdrawal. However, teachers may be required to attend assembly.
- Acts of collective worship can take place at any time during the school day. Time spent on collective worship lies outside curricular time and cannot count as part of the taught school day.
- Daily collective worship must take place on the school premises. Any acts of worship held off the school premises must be in addition to the statutory ones.
- For collective worship, pupils can be grouped in various ways: as a whole school or in groups (or a combination of groups) which the school uses at other times (eg. class groups, year groups, Pupils cannot be put into special groups just for collective worship unless a ‘determination’ has been granted (see below).
- The school prospectus must contain information about the collective worship that the school provides and about parent’s rights to withdraw their children from collective worship.
- Responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements are met rests with the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors.

Requirements relating to style and character

- Most acts of worship in any one school term must be *“wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”*. An act of worship is such if it *“reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination”*.

- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils, in that they must take account of the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

Aims of Collective Worship (Distinct from Assembly)

From DFE Circular 1/94

- To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- To provide something special or separate from ordinary school activities.
- In the majority of acts of Collective Worship to reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and to accord special status to Jesus Christ.

Further Aims

- To give all children the opportunity to discuss and participate in the theme for the work.
- To develop skills appropriate for worship, including the capacity to be silent and still, thoughtful and reflective.
- To be introduced to a variety of forms of worship and to appreciate the use of religious language to express feelings and belief.

Planning

The weekly assembly themes are planned in advance. At the start of each half term assembly is delivered using the SEAL material. The themes take account of occasions in the academic and religious calendars and weeks are linked together, with a series of ideas connected on some occasions eg. feelings. Songs for each week are planned alongside the themes.

Resources

There is a wide range of resource books to help with planning, which are stored in the hall. There are artefacts for Hinduism and Judaism available and a range of posters. Other resources are provided by the teacher taking the assembly including books, CDs and Internet resources.

Delivery

Monday	Headteacher
Tuesday	Deputy Headteacher
Wednesday	Class assembly
Thursday	Teacher rota
Friday	Celebration assembly

Visitors are invited into school to lead an assembly for each year group on Wednesdays and occasionally visitors lead whole school assemblies.

This policy has been prepared by the Co-ordinator in consultation with teaching staff and governors.