

HARESTOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL POLICY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Update from previous version: No changes

Date: Autumn term 2018

Review Date: Summer term 2021

Key Principles

1. As a school we follow the legal requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.
2. Collective worship should offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs and reaffirm, interpret and put into practise the values of the school.
3. Collective worship is an integral part of the broad and balanced curriculum to which our children are entitled and is open to all staff and children with no assumptions made about their personal commitment.
4. We interpret 'worship' 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".
(The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship, G H Gorman)

Aims

- To promote social, moral, spiritual and cultural education and British values.
- To provide opportunities for worship in different ways such as discussion, reflection, celebration, awe& wonder, sense of belonging, prayer, sharing, recognition and using a focal point. .
- To express broadly Christian values, beliefs, celebrations and patterns of worship.
- To provide an opportunity to share and celebrate together, to promote a sense of community and to recognise celebration and affirm achievement.
- To enable children to actively contribute and respond to the theme and to have their contributions valued.
- To provide a special time set apart from the school day when children and staff can reflect on things of importance to them.
- To introduce aspects of other beliefs, traditions, cultures and celebrations.
- To encourage children to respond appropriately in large and small gatherings and to offer opportunities for performance of and response to a presentation.

Practice and Procedure

1. The majority of acts (51% or more) of collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. These include some secular material with a Christian morals / values, bible stories, stories of Christians and the Christian customs/festivals/practises.

We also explore moral and social issues and promote a supportive and caring atmosphere within the school. Children are introduced to aspects of other religions on some occasions.

2. A collective act of worship should provide opportunities to:

*Focus on a particular theme/value which has been identified as a planned part of a 2 year programme.
(We do however, recognise the need for flexibility and always allow space for the spontaneous).

*Encourage opportunities for reflection of the theme

*Respond in a variety of ways such as:

Time for a 'prayer' - children are invited to join in if they wish and/or provide silence for personal reflection (as we make no assumptions about personal beliefs).

Singing,

Role play,

Listening to stories,

Experiencing thinking time,

Through celebration,

Discussion opportunities,

Question & Answer sessions,

Producing & sharing information,

*Develop a sense of reverence - we aim to achieve this over a period of time through the recognition, affirmation and celebration of the worthiness of those values held to be of central importance to our community.

4. We aim to create a calm atmosphere prior to the start of collective worship. The children will therefore be expected to leave their classrooms and enter the hall in silence. Music should be played for entering and leaving the hall.
5. The school has a two year cycle of themes which provides continuity and avoids repetition. It has key Christian festivals included as well as key festivals from other religions.
6. There are opportunities throughout the term to focus on 'one-off' issues local, national and international events.

These will be planned as far as possible, into the long-term planning cycle, but there is a need for flexibility for us to respond to the unexpected.

7. The school generally follows a pattern of whole school assembly Monday and Fridays with Infants / Junior assemblies, Year team and class assemblies on the other days in the week. Assemblies should last no longer than 15 minutes.
8. Acts of collective worship are often led by the Head teacher or visitors with class teachers taking responsibility for class/ Year team assemblies. Visitors e.g. vicars from the local community lead acts of worship through the year, often monthly, and are well-briefed on the school's policy.
9. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from parts of, or all collective worship sessions. Children who are withdrawn are supervised and suitably occupied. Parents who wish to exercise the right to withdraw their children should speak to the Head teacher.
10. A variety of methods of presentation are used to help stimulate and maintain children's interest in collective worship e.g. Children's presentations
 - Visitors
 - Stories / poems / article / images (to promote a reaction)
 - Demonstration
 - Artefacts
 - Film clips (using websites)
 - DVDs
 - Discussion / Q&A session
 - Drama / role play
 - Singing
10. The Head teacher ensures that timetables and resources are maintained. The content and quality of acts of collective worship are monitored through the year by the Senior Leadership team. This is achieved by observations, discussions in staff meetings and children conferencing through the year.