

Stanbridge Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



Signed (Chair):	Name: Mrs I Horswell	Date: 29/04/13
Signed (Headteacher):	Name: Miss F Bertham	Date: 29/04/13
Ratified: by Curriculum Committee	Next Review: Term 5 (14/15)	

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Part 1: EIA Screening

Policies, Procedures or Practices	Collective Worship	Date:	29/04/13
EIA CARRIED OUT BY:	F Bertham	EIA APPROVED BY:	F Bertham

Groups that may be affected:

Are there concerns that the policy could have a different impact on any of the following groups? (Please tick the relevant boxes)	Existing or potential adverse impact	Existing or potential for a positive impact
Age (young people, the elderly; issues surrounding protection and welfare, recruitment, training, pay, promotion)		
Disability (physical and mental disability, learning difficulties; issues surrounding access to buildings, curriculum and communication).		
Gender Reassignment (transsexual)		
Marriage and civil partnership		
Pregnancy and maternity		
Racial Groups (consider: language, culture, ethnicity including gypsy/traveller groups and asylum seekers)		
Religion or belief (practices of worship, religious or cultural observance, including non-belief)		
Gender (male, female)		
Sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, bisexual; actual or perceived)		

Any adverse impacts are explored in a Full Impact Assessment.

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Collective Worship Policy

1. Aims and purpose

- 1.1. The aims and purpose of collective worship are:
 - to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
 - to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
 - to encourage participation and response;
 - to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
 - to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

2. Collective Worship

- 2.1. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.
- 2.2. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. We also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

3. Organisation of Collective Worship

- 3.1. We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each day's assembly, which is often a whole-school assembly, although we hold separate infant and junior assemblies as well as class-based assemblies.
- 3.2. We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the stories or teachings and participate fully in reflection or prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.
- 3.3. The Headteacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local groups conduct them instead.
- 3.4. We have an assembly theme for each week. Sometimes these themes reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum.
- 3.5. Our weekly Celebrations Assembly and termly Achievement assemblies celebrate the achievements of the children and reinforce our school values.
- 3.6. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by talking about or showing their work to the other children. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.
- 3.7. We invite parents to key assemblies and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

3.8. We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time, please refer to Governor Visits Policy.

4. Right of Withdrawal

4.1. We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

4.2. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

5. Monitoring and Review

5.1. The Governors' Curriculum Committee have responsibility for religious education and collective worship and to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governors concerned liaise with the HUMS Team before reporting to the governors.