



Hamilton Lodge School  
Collective Worship Policy

## **Legal Requirements**

At Hamilton Lodge School we recognise the following legislative underpinning of schools' collective acts of worship:

- That all registered pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship each day. Although this requirement allows for the exception of special schools, apart from Mondays due to our late start, we do have an act of collective worship on Tuesdays and Fridays. (The School Council meets with the Head Teacher every Wednesday and Thursdays are allocated as tutor time.)
- Along with the parental right of withdrawal, teachers retain the right to withdraw from collective worship, but they may be required to attend Assembly.
- For collective worship, pupils can be grouped in various ways: as a whole school, according to age, or in groups (or a combination of group) which the school uses at other times (e.g. teaching group, year groups, house group). Pupils cannot be put into special groups just for collective worship.
- Responsibility with the arrangements of collective worship rests with the head teacher in consultation with the governors.
- 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."
- The acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils, in that they should take account of the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family background.

## **Our aims for assemblies/collective worship**

We believe that assemblies should be:

- inclusive
- educational
- spiritual

By inclusive we mean that our assemblies should:

- be pupil centred and related to pupils own experience and concerns.
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each pupils and teachers own life stance, whether it be religious or not.
- involve pupils as active participants.
- be shaped to the particular needs of our pupils.
- foster a sense of community, shared values, outlook and purpose.

The importance of inclusive assemblies is that there should generally be no need for the right of withdrawal from collective worship to be exercised.

By educational we mean that our assemblies should:

- be learning experiences of real quality related to the pupils own experiences and be properly prepared and evaluated.
- be explicitly related to other curricular activity, and links forged both with RE and other subjects.
- celebrate a range of educational achievements.

By spiritual we mean that our assemblies should:

- provide a space where pupils and staff can meet together and reflect on the life of the school.
- be special in the sense of a distinctively spiritual atmosphere e.g. by using appropriate music or a visual focus.
- give the opportunity for our pupils and staff to feel relaxed, secure and comfortable with calm entry and exit.
- provide opportunities for pupils to participate in a variety of spiritual activities such as workshop, signing, dancing, drama, prayer and quiet contemplation.



