



HORNCHURCH ACADEMY TRUST

Hornchurch Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee

Registered in England: Company Number 10760863

Registered Office: Whybridge Junior School, Rainham, Essex, RM13 7AH

www.hornchurchacademy.org

		Hornchurch Academy Trust
	Policy review Date	10 th July 2021
	Date of next Review	31 st August 2023
	Who reviewed this policy?	Mr C W Hobson
	Date approved by Board of Trustees?	8 th July 2021

Collective Worship Policy

Philosophy

In the Hornchurch Academy Trust, worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

We recognise that Collective Worship is an important vehicle for providing opportunities for our students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Aims

It is our aim that worship should: -

- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the academy, at each school, in the local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others
- provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- to provide an opportunity for the children to consider the purpose and meaning of life, and 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
- to provide an opportunity for calm reflection

Legal Status of Collective Worship

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of



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Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

We aim to provide students with variety in their experience of worship; acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for students in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and in the wider community.

Organisation of collective worship

An assembly is when we gather together for a common purpose. Within this assembly, we hold a daily act of collective worship and this forms part of each assembly. It may include music, songs, stories, shared experiences, readings from sacred writings, prayer and reflection.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes other objects or visuals as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head of School and other members of staff normally conduct assemblies and representatives from the local church or other local representatives from other religions or agencies (e.g. NSPCC, Oxfam, Macmillan, etc) conduct them as well.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage children to participate in assemblies by showing their work and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. 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.

Each week there is a theme for Collective Worship. These are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively, class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur in the curriculum during the week.

Rights of Withdrawal

In the Hornchurch Academy Trust we seek to be an inclusive community; however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from the Act of Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head of School followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. This right of withdrawal does not extend to all assemblies (eg. Celebration or sharing assemblies; etc) .



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The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the Head of School, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in the Hornchurch Academy Trust.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion with valued feedback from parents and visitors. It is the role of the Local Standards Group to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship in each local school.