



Collective Worship Policy

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Approved by:	New Generation Trust Board
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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

We want Hope Community School to be at the centre of the community. Worship is an important part of our school's life as it gives us the opportunity to celebrate, as well as encouraging our children to think about their place in the world, through Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. We will not shy away from our responsibilities in enabling children to think deeply about themselves, the world in which they live and the place that faith has in our society.

Daily Acts of Collective Worship at Hope Community School take place within our Christian context and framework. They are an important element of our foundation, at the heart of school life and contribute to a spiritually rich environment.

Our Collective Worship aims to:

- develop a sense of community within and beyond the school

- acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the children as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community

- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life

- enable children to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling those children with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others

- enable children to approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, reverence and elation

- celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual children within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community

- acknowledge and respect difference and diversity

There may be children attending Hope Community School with a Christian faith who will wish to worship as Christians and we recognise there may also be children without such a commitment or understanding. We do not make assumptions about children's beliefs and our daily acts of Collective Worship are appropriate for every child. In particular, we do not require children to do or say things that they do not believe to be true.

Any parent who does not wish their child to join the rest of the school community for this daily time of Collective Worship is entitled under law to withdraw their child. However, the Christian ethos of Hope Community School is carefully explained to prospective parents in the Prospectus, on the website and at Open Days. If parents are unsure about the practice of

a daily act of Collective Worship, then we would advise they meet and discuss concerns with the Principal.

Acts of Collective Worship may:

- be evocative and challenging, providing opportunities for personal reflection and response;
- provide opportunities for children to develop a sense of awe and wonder.
- provide opportunities to share with children's the central teachings of the Christian faith, centred around the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, at an age appropriate level and thereby encourage them to explore and reflect on their own beliefs and understanding of God.
- establish, explore and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, forgiveness and compassion; secure foundations
- allow us to find out together what God teaches in the Bible;
- include features from Christian Worship e.g. prayers, songs, Bible readings, use of religious symbols e.g. candle, cross;
- provide opportunities for us to explore our individual identity in relation to God as individuals, as members of the Hope Community School's community, and as part of the wider Church community;
- provide opportunities to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and the needs of others;

All members of the school community, including staff, are encouraged to share in Acts of Collective Worship to develop a sense of community and belonging and in keeping with the close family ethos of the school. It is expected that all teaching staff should attend Celebration Collective Worships.

The school's Forty core Christian values will be explored through Collective worship.