



## Collective Worship Policy

<b>Audience</b>	All staff, governors and parents
<b>Date for renewal/update/review</b>	At least every five years
<b>Named person responsible for monitoring</b>	Governors, Head (or designated SLT/Head of PSHCE)
<b>Agreed by Quality Assurance Committee</b>	23 January 2020
<b>Ratified by Governors</b>	11 February 2020

This policy is a statutory requirement, which ensures that the school has a clear approach to the planning and delivery of collective worship. It relates to the Equal Opportunities Policy, in our aim to respect the religious beliefs and practices of all students, staff and parents.

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship; but not from Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development taught through the school's curriculum. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should consult the Head. Where a child is withdrawn, appropriate activities need to be provided. Teachers may also withdraw from collective worship.

### What Does Collective Worship Mean to Our School?

Hampstead School has long recognised its duty to promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development in its ethos and as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Our Collective Worship policy gives students who wish to worship God, an opportunity to, while also offering all students a profound reflective experience where they can consider their own values and beliefs. It is a time to celebrate our common life, to reflect on the values that we want to shape our school and to form the character of the staff and students within it.

### A Background to Collective Worship

It is a legal requirement that all registered school age students take part in an act of worship each day. These acts of worship must be **"wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character"** for the majority of the time. They must also be **"appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils"**.

As we are an inclusive multi-ethnic, mixed faith school, it has been our policy to apply for a determination from Camden's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), lifting the requirement of worship which should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". Determination granted 2 June 2015. It is the responsibility of the governors and head to apply for a renewal of this determination every five years. Renewal of determination due 2 June 2020.

Furthermore, as a fully inclusive community, we recognise a whole host of diversity and therefore celebrate the main festivals of all major religions represented in the school. These include: Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Judaism, and Humanist. We are committed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and endorse Article 14: Freedom of thought, belief and religion, and respect the faith background of both the staff and the child's family at all times.

Assemblies and other reflective activities must actively promote fundamental British Values of

democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

## Objectives

A key part of the procedures relating to this policy is for students to have an opportunity to learn about the beliefs of others and spiritually reflect on contemporary issues. These are issues relating to both the community of the school and the wider world. We do this through the following:

<b>Key aspects of collective worship</b>			
<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Input</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Examples</b>
Structured Daily tutor time	Tutors Heads of Year Head of PSHCE Leadership team	Daily On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concept for the week</li> <li>○ Structured reflection</li> <li>○ Discussion on daily news</li> </ul>
Weekly year assemblies	Heads of Year Head of PSHCE Leadership team Head	Weekly On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stewardship</li> <li>○ Tolerance</li> <li>○ Religion, Belief &amp; Philosophy</li> <li>○ Purim &amp; Easter Festivals</li> </ul>
End term assemblies	Tutors Heads of Year Leadership team	End of each term – as planned by HOYS and SLT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shared reflection on the term's challenges and successes</li> <li>○ Presentations relating to faith festivals</li> </ul>
Extra assemblies – for example those which reflect major international events or celebrate major religious festivals	Heads of Year Heads of Department Head of PSHCE Leadership team Visiting speakers	In accordance with remembrance, awareness days and national/international events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ LGBT History Month</li> <li>○ Black History Month</li> <li>○ Remembrance Day</li> <li>○ Mutual Respect</li> <li>○ St Georges Day</li> <li>○ Christmas</li> <li>○ Chanukah</li> <li>○ Ramadan</li> </ul>

***“In its document on ‘Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools’ (November 2014), the Department for Education reiterated that “meeting requirements for collective worship” is one way of “ensuring pupils’ SMSC development” (p.4). As one of the primary vehicles for the schools ethos, collective worship is a key opportunity to celebrate religious diversity within the school and to promote respect and tolerance among people of all faiths, races and cultures”. (Camden SACRE – January 2015).***

Our policy reflects both the DfE and Camden SACRE views above and actively promotes the British Values of Democracy, The rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect and tolerance.

## Links to other Policies

This policy links to the Religious Observance, Anti-bullying policy, Equality policy, and Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. Our provision of Collective Worship reflects our ethos as a cohesive multi-cultural and multi-faith school; that respects and celebrates with each other.

### Additional Policies, Guidance & Supporting Documentation

- Camden SACRE briefing January 2015 : Religion, belief and Values in today's schools
- Hampstead SACRE Determination application June 2015
- [Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools, DfE - November 2014](#)