



## **Collective Worship (Assemblies) Policy 2006**

### **1 Aims and purpose**

1.1 The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- 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 We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship at Holt House involves the school community coming together and participating in an assembly or individual classes participating in an act of worship together during the school day.

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', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, being a multicultural school, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is inclusive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. High status is given to the Muslim faith, as a high percentage of pupils at the school are from this ethnic group. Assemblies also 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 morning assembly, which is normally a whole-school assembly.

3.2 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, listening carefully to the messages and to participate in an appropriate manner. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes 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 religious groups conduct them instead.

3.4 We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith, Islam and other religions as appropriate. We reflect the festivals and events of the Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Hindu calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We give great emphasis to promoting positive personal, social and moral values and good citizenship and make links with the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum and the Every Child Matters agenda.

- 3.5** Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children 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 schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Holt House Infant School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies.
- 3.6** Sometimes we invite parents to assembly 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.
- 3.7** We welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

#### **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** It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.

**Date: March 2006**  
**Review: Annual**