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**The Hayfield School Policy Statement: Collective Worship**  
**Reviewed: December 2005**

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**RATIONALE AND PURPOSE:**

The law has never clearly defined collective worship. We know however that collective worship is not the same as faith community worship (corporate worship) because a community school is not a faith community.

Community schools contain pupils and staff from many different faith backgrounds as well as those who have no religious beliefs or no faith background.

A school community therefore contains a wide range of people with different views on what 'worship' might mean and what or whom may be worthy of worship.

There are many good reasons for wanting to provide collective worship apart from ensuring that the law is met. Collective worship can add value to the education process.

It provides time for the whole community to share good and bad times together, celebrate success, apply the school's promoted values and stand back, reflect and take time to appreciate.

**BROAD GUIDELINES:**

Collective Worship provides an opportunity to:

- encourage pupils to develop an awareness of the universal moral principles of right and wrong, justice and fairness and a proper concern for the fate of others and the world;
- affirm and celebrate the values and ethos of the school;
- add to the pupils' development an awareness of, and a sense of belonging to, the many different dimensions of the school's community;
- experience the sense of gathering for a special purpose;
- share an experience that promotes thought and reflection;
- promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- provide an opportunity to reflect on practical issues raised by becoming an adult citizen of the world
- consider and reflect upon a variety of situations and issues and make a personal response;
- reflect quietly and make an internal response in the light of personal beliefs and background; this may include worship of God within each participant's own faith understanding.

In order to ensure that a quality experience is provided collective worship has to be well planned and effectively led, resourced and monitored.

Collective Worship and Assemblies Programme

GUIDELINES

**Year Group Assemblies**

For most weeks of the School year, each year group gathers for an assembly in the Main Hall. This assembly consists of short presentations on a theme of moral, social, or global interest, or offering a spiritual perspective on a similar and/or perennial issue. This may include a brief reflection, a reading, a prayer and music, though only very rarely all of these.

They also provide an opportunity for the Head of Year to address pastoral or academic matters, such as options choices, revision skills, or university application procedures.

These presentations will generally be given or led by members of staff, though sometimes outside speakers may contribute, particularly in the Lower School. The school enjoys good relations with local clergy and a schools' worker who form part of our regular contributors. Our assemblies are greatly enriched by the availability of video, computer, and audio facilities. These are used as part of presentations, often to impressive effect.

Creativity also plays an important part in our assemblies. During each term, individuals or groups of students perform in assembly to the whole School, as a way of providing space for reflection, enrichment, and valuable experience for the performers.

Spiritual themes are explored from a variety of perspectives. Usually the ethos is one of perennial spirituality that aims to offer insight or nourishment to all, regardless of belief or affiliation.

### **Tutor Group Worship**

Alongside this regular programme of year group assemblies, each Tutor group follows a suggested theme each week. These gatherings often complement and enrich the PSE and Citizenship programme. Every year group has themes that are based around the citizenship themes used in tutorial work.

Pupils are encouraged to think for themselves about a range of issues and to produce written answers/posters/prayers on the themes given.

Every classroom will have the relevant theme displayed for all pupils to see.

Every pupil is given an outline of the themes and some questions to think about around the theme

**Whole School assemblies** are held at the beginning and end of each term. These assemblies are led by the Headmaster and have significant contributions from members of staff and pupils.

On the School day nearest to 11 November, the School holds Remembrance Assemblies, to commemorate those who have died in the wars. At the same time, the school engages in the two minutes' silence. Most group tutors speak with their groups about the reflective use of this time. The school generally observes other nationally suggested periods of silent reflection, eg Tsunami, the Queen Mother's death and the London Bomb victims.

The school organises a Carol Concert on two evenings in Bawtry church when staff, parent students and others are welcome.

The whole programme of assemblies is overseen by the teacher i/c Collective Worship, in conjunction with the Headmaster, Deputy Heads, Heads of Year, and the Head of PD. Suggestions or comments are always welcome.

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