



Collective Worship Policy

Ratified by Governors: September 2026
Review: September 2028

Purpose

Herrick Primary School provides a daily act of collective worship that is inclusive, values-based and legally compliant. Our collective worship supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and is rooted in the school's vision and values: Integrity, Ambition, Empathy and Resilience. It reflects the determination granted by Leicester SACRE and the school's commitment to meet the needs of a predominantly EAL, multi-faith community.

Legal Position

- The school meets statutory duties for collective worship while operating under the SACRE determination which permits an inclusive, non-confessional approach appropriate to our community.
- Parents/carers retain the statutory right to withdraw their child from collective worship. The headteacher will provide appropriate supervised arrangements during withdrawal periods.
- Staff are not required to lead or take part in worship contrary to their beliefs.

Aims - Collective worship at Herrick will:

- Give pupils a regular, simple daily opportunity for quiet reflection linked to our school values and current themes.
- Encourage pupils to consider spiritual, moral and ethical questions and to explore their own beliefs (religious or secular).
- Reinforce our shared values and promote community, mutual respect and inclusion.
- Provide opportunities for celebration, remembrance, reflection and stillness.
- Support pupils' SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) development in ways that are appropriate to our diverse intake.

Daily Pattern and Format

- Daily "Reflective Moments" are carried out in every class and last a few minutes. Teachers use the agreed signal (Jigsaw PSHE chime) to begin and end the moment. The routine follows the Reflective Moments handbook: signal, prompt (question), silent reflection, close.
- Weekly structure: Monday whole-school assembly (opportunity for reflection). Tuesday–Friday short classroom reflective moments focused on a Herrick value (Ambition, Empathy, Integrity, Resilience). Themes are sequenced across the year using the school's Reflective Moments handbook.
- Acts of worship may be delivered as whole-school, phase or class activities depending on practicality and age appropriateness.

Content and Approach

- Worship is non-confessional and inclusive; language is sensitive so children of all faiths and none can take part meaningfully. Pupils may use the reflective time for prayer if they wish, but are never required to pray or to use religious language. Suggested phrasing and prompts are provided in the handbook.

- Content will include: value-linked reflections, stories, music, short readings, silence, creative stimuli, celebration of achievement, and contributions from visitors representing a range of faiths and non-religious worldviews.
- At least termly planning ensures breadth and progression of spiritual and moral themes and links to curriculum topics where appropriate.

Leadership, Roles and Responsibilities

- The headteacher has overall responsibility for ensuring legal compliance and that collective worship is planned, recorded and resourced.
- All teaching staff are expected to lead reflective moments or assemblies as part of the school rota; participation is voluntary for staff where it would conflict with personal beliefs. Alternative duties will be arranged in such cases.
- Governors will ensure provision for collective worship is in place and will review policy and practice at least every two years.

Planning, Recording and Monitoring

- Termly plans set themes, linked values and suggested resources. The Reflective Moments handbook provides a weekly sequencing for the year.
- Monitoring will include: learning walks, review of planning and records, pupil and staff voice. Monitoring will include checks on inclusivity of language and on how pupils of different backgrounds experience collective worship. Findings will inform improvements.
- Visitors leading acts of worship will be briefed in advance and provided with the school's expectations and inclusive language guidance.

Inclusion and Withdrawal

- Collective worship will be delivered so that pupils of all faiths and none can engage. The school's approach reflects our renewed determination from SACRE and our diverse intake.
- Parents/carers may withdraw their child from collective worship in whole or in part by written notice to the headteacher. The headteacher will meet parents to discuss arrangements and provide suitable supervised alternative provision during those periods. Pupils with additional needs will be supported to access appropriate parts of collective worship wherever possible.

Health and Safety

- Normal school health and safety procedures apply during acts of worship. Risk assessments will be completed for large gatherings, off-site events and external visitors.

Communication and Accessibility

- The policy will be published on the school website.
- The Reflective Moments handbook and example weekly themes will be shared with staff and governors and used in induction for new staff.

Evaluation and Review

- The policy will be reviewed at least every two years or sooner if relevant guidance or the school context changes.