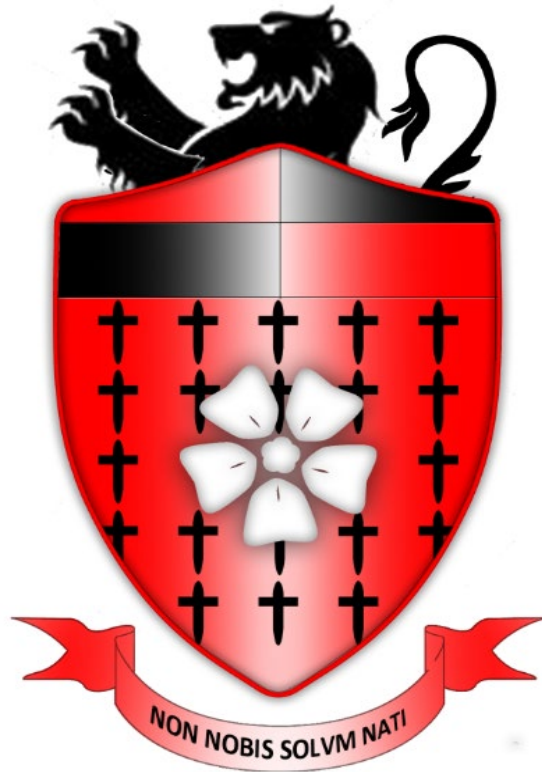


Hornsea School & Language College



Collective Worship Policy

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Approved by:	Headteacher: 3/12/2025	Governing Body: 09/12/2025
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Legal Requirements for Collective Worship

Hornsea School & Language College (HSLC) fulfils its statutory duty under the Education Reform Act 1988 and School Standards and Framework Act 1998, which require:

- A daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils (Years 7–11), except those withdrawn at parental request.
- Acts of Collective Worship that are appropriate to pupils' age, aptitude, and family background.
- Worship which, across the whole programme, is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", without reflecting any specific denomination.

Responsibility for the organisation of Collective Worship lies with the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governing Body.

The school recognises that Collective Worship need not be a religious act, but a reflective time that focuses on "things of worth" and promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development, in line with SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) guidance.

Parents retain the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. This is facilitated through contact with the Headteacher. Staff similarly retain the right to withdraw in accordance with statutory guidance.

Aims

At HSLC, Collective Worship seeks to:

- Give expression to, reaffirm, and practise the core values of the school community.
- Contribute positively to students' spiritual, moral, social, cultural and intellectual development, supporting Life in Modern Britain and the promotion of British Values.
- Provide opportunities for quiet reflection, stillness and consideration of ultimate questions, personal growth, and the world around us.
- Offer moments that are inclusive, invitational, and accessible to all pupils regardless of religious or non-religious worldview.
- Present themes which are broadly Christian in moral value across the year, while also embracing stories, observances, and perspectives from other religions and worldviews where appropriate.
- Celebrate achievements within the school and the local/global community.
- Encourage self-respect, empathy, compassion, and awareness of the needs of others.
- Acknowledge festivals, religious observances, cultural events and significant national or global days, fostering respect for diversity.

Organisation of Collective Worship

HSLC fulfils its daily Collective Worship requirement through a combination of:

a) Daily Reflective Practice ("Pause for Thought") – Years 7 to 11

At the start of every school day during the opening 5–10 minutes of Lesson 1, all students engage in a daily reflective moment supported by a standardised slide.

The "Pause for Thought" slide includes:

- Monthly religious observances from a range of traditions (e.g. Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Pagan etc.)
- National and international days of significance, linked to moral, social or cultural themes
- A weekly reflective quote, often aligned to broadly Christian values (e.g. compassion, forgiveness, hope, integrity), or universal moral/spiritual insights
- A prompt inviting students to reflect, such as: *"Take time to reflect..."*

Teachers introduce or highlight elements of the slide as appropriate and provide space for quiet reflection. Students are encouraged to consider the theme personally, reflect silently, and connect it to their own values and actions.

While not a traditional gathered assembly, this daily reflective practice is a key component of HSLC's Collective Worship provision. It offers regular, meaningful opportunities for spiritual and moral development and provides a consistent rhythm of reflective engagement across the school.

b) Year Group and Whole-School Assemblies

Assemblies take place regularly and form an important part of Collective Worship at HSLC. These sessions include:

- Thematic content aligned to one of the school's values or a moral/spiritual theme
- Celebration of achievement
- Exploration of cultural, humanitarian or ethical issues
- Reference to broadly Christian values where appropriate and relevant, rather than in every assembly
- Opportunities for reflection, quiet thought, or response
- Inclusion of stories, quotations, or examples from Christian, multi-faith and non-religious traditions, ensuring accessibility for all pupils

Assemblies may be led by:

- Senior Leadership Team
- Progress Leaders
- Staff volunteers
- Pupils (*where appropriate*)

External visitors, including representatives of religious communities and community leaders, who enhance the programme while complying with safeguarding procedures and the expectation that they do not proselytise.

Inclusivity and Approach

Collective Worship at HSLC is:

- Inclusive – no pupil is required to participate in prayer or worship against their beliefs
- Invitational, using language such as "You may wish to..." or "Some people believe..."
- Sensitive to the diversity within the school community
- Focused on values, reflection, self-understanding, and respect for others

The school ensures that all content is age-appropriate and respectful of the broad mix of worldviews present.

Planning, Recording and Review

- A programme of themes for assemblies is planned by SLT and Progress Leaders, with reference to school values, British Values, national/international events, and relevant religious festivals.
- “*Pause for Thought*” content is updated weekly (reflection quotes) and monthly (observances and “*Days of...*”).
- Staff delivering assemblies have access to guidance and resources.
- Pupils may contribute ideas through School Council or focus groups.
- Collective Worship is monitored through:
 - Feedback from staff and pupils
 - Observation by SLT and Progress Leaders
 - Occasional governor attendance, in line with SACRE recommendations
 - Review of themes and content to ensure coverage of spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimensions
 - Findings inform future planning and continuous improvement.

Visitors

External speakers are welcomed to enhance Collective Worship. All visitors must:

- Understand the educational and inclusive context of HSLC
- Avoid proselytising
- Comply with safeguarding procedures
- Coordinate content in advance with the school

Visitors may include representatives of religious communities, community leaders, charities, inspirational figures, or others contributing to spiritual and moral development.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents may request withdrawal of their child from Collective Worship. This request should be made to the Headteacher. The school will provide appropriate supervision for withdrawn pupils but is not required to provide alternative worship.

Summary

This policy reflects HSLC's commitment to meeting statutory requirements for Collective Worship through an approach that is:

- inclusive
- reflective
- values-based
- developmentally appropriate
- sensitive to diversity
- aligned with current SACRE guidance
- firmly rooted in daily practice (“*Pause for Thought*”) and regular assemblies