



**Statement on Religious Education and Collective Worship at
Harvey Road Primary School**

January 2020

Harvey Road School does not have a designated religious character. This means we are not a faith school. However, governors recognise that we do have the responsibility to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that will equip our children to understand and successfully live within an increasingly diverse world. Below is our rationale as to why we have assemblies that focus primarily on Christianity as well as other religions. This rationale also includes why we take part in and celebrate a wide range of religious events and festivals through the year.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Harvey Road School RE and Collective Worship policies.

Religious Education

Harvey Road School's Religious Education (RE) curriculum both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. It makes a significant contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development; to their knowledge and awareness of Prevent (risk of being radicalized), British values, keeping children safe and the diversity, equality and cohesion agendas. These are all essential contributing factors in providing outstanding RE teaching and learning for all children.

Our RE policy states that our curriculum will reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain (Section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996). This means that Harvey Road School's main focus when looking at the world faiths will be primarily Christian.

We recognise that there is also a need to be inclusive, ensuring that all the major faiths have an opportunity to share their common values and practices whilst also including atheist, agnostic and humanist perspectives. To be educationally and legally acceptable, RE encourages an open and honest enquiry and an awareness of prejudice; we will seek to encourage all participants to reflect upon their own beliefs and values, and respect the rights of others to do likewise.

RE presents many opportunities to explore multicultural and equal opportunities. Moral questions will be raised and pupils will develop a sense of citizenship, promoting honesty, compassion, respect and responsibility. To achieve this, not only will links be made with people and communities that have links with Christian and other faith groups within our locality but children will also take part in and learn about traditional cultural events. These events will include traditional nativity plays, harvest festivals, Yom Kippur, Chinese New Year, carol concerts, Diwali, Eid, Hanukkah and Holi and many others.

Collective Worship

The Department for Education stated a general position on collective worship in English schools as being:

All maintained schools without a designated religious character must provide a daily act of broadly Christian collective worship for their pupils. In community schools and non-faith

foundation schools, the executive leader [Headteacher] is responsible for arranging this after consulting the Governing Body.

Government guidance on this issue provides more information on what worship of a 'broadly Christian character' means:

The [relevant legislation] then further defines collective worship of a 'broadly Christian character' as being worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. Any such worship should not, however, be distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

Furthermore, in the paper, 'Religious Education in Schools (2019)' it states that;

'It is open to a school to have acts of worship that are wholly of a broadly Christian character, acts of worship that are broadly in the tradition of another religion, and acts of worship which contain elements drawn from a number of different faiths. Section 7(3) of the Act qualifies section 7(1) by providing that within each school term the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, but it is not necessary for every act of worship to be so (see also paragraph 124). Thus, whatever the decision on individual acts of worship, the majority of acts of worship over a term must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.'

Rather than 'acts of worship', governors have stated that we will take part in and celebrate specific Christian and non-Christian religious festivals. The aim of which will be to inform our children of the practices and beliefs of Christians and other religions.

Following these statements, Harvey Road School should and will:

- provide opportunities to explore controversial issues related to religion and belief in the modern world - including misrepresentations of religion in the media
- provide opportunities for representatives of 'hard to reach' religious communities to work with the school and develop confidence that their traditions are respected
- provide opportunities for pupils with strong religious and belief commitments to share their experience in a safe context and see that their faith is valued and respected
- provide enrichment activities, including fieldwork to different places of worship and inviting visitors to our school. This will provide our children with the opportunities to gain first hand engagement with different religions and beliefs within our local area.

It is hoped that, as a consequence of their study of RE and participation in Collective Worship, all children will develop positive and constructive attitudes of enquiry, fairness, commitment, respect and understanding for themselves and others that will lead them to an enriched perspective on life both now and in the future.

N Rowlands
Headteacher

Tom Farrar
Chair of Governors

Agreed by Governors: January 2020