

P-04-412 : A Call to Abolish Collective Worship

Petition wording:

As it stands, the law requires all schools to hold an act of collective worship every day. Even in schools that aren't 'faith' schools, this must be 'broadly Christian' in character. In a society which is increasingly diverse, this is an affront to the rights of young people to express their beliefs freely. Although there is the opportunity to opt out, this is reliant on parental permission and is not respected by all schools. The law is extremely unpopular, with opinion polls showing teachers don't want it, parents don't want it, and children don't want it. As such, it is long past time for the daily act of collective worship to be replaced with inclusive assemblies that add to cohesion and a sense of community within the school. We petition the Government to repeal the requirement for compulsory collective worship in schools and to encourage schools to hold educational assemblies that will include all children, regardless of religion or non-religious belief.

Petition raised by: Richy Thompson, British Humanist Association

Date petition first considered by Committee: 2 October 2012

Number of signatures: 828