

High Wycombe Church of England School



POLICY:	Collective Worship
COMMITTEE:	Curriculum
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HIGH WYCOMBE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

'At HWCE we have an understanding that we are all made in the image of God, and that we are all valued and important.'

Worship is an integral part of the daily life of our school. The ethos of our school is based on our 9 Christian values, **Compassion, Thankfulness, Trust, Forgiveness, Friendship, Peace, Hope, Respect and Service** and our emphasis on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is guided by the teaching of Jesus Christ. This emphasis is reflected in our collective worship.

Parents are entitled to withdraw their children from collective worship. However as our daily act of worship embodies the caring ethos of our school family it is hoped that all children will be permitted to be present, for the commitment of the school is to respect each individual's faith and culture.

AIMS

To underpin the **Christian values** and ethos of the school

To ensure each member of the school community, staff and children, has the opportunity to join in daily acts of Christian worship.

To ensure the daily act of worship is based on the teaching of Jesus Christ, creating both a sense of reverence and a sense of awe and wonder for God's world.

To foster opportunities beyond the daily act of worship, for children and staff to participate in prayer and worship together.

To foster respect for other faiths and viewpoints

To develop relevant core skills and knowledge through the teachings of our **Christian Values** that help each child to become reflective and independent learners prepared for their future in an ever changing world.

To be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence

To help children explore and develop their own spirituality

To enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs

To offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community

To celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community

To show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community

To provide a healthy, safe and caring environment that is underpinned by our **Christian Values** where children develop beliefs and attitudes that help them become successful well rounded human beings.

OBJECTIVES

Through our collective worship we wish to foster in each individual,

- An awareness of a Creator
- A sense of awe and wonder for God's world around us
- An ever developing knowledge of the Bible and Christian faith
- An opportunity to join in prayer with understanding
- A sense of wonder and enjoyment in music and song
- Respect and consideration of others
- An opportunity to explore the emotions involved in love, sharing, pain and death
- A sense of self worth
- The ability to contribute to a caring community
- A sense of concern and care about the wider world beyond our school
- A commitment to dialogue with other faiths shown in the welcome we offer to all children and the celebration of shared values and beliefs

GUIDELINES

- Collective acts of worship will vary in format in order that children may experience worship in different groupings i.e. whole school worship, key stage groups, class groups.
- Worship should be planned to be relevant and appropriate to the age of the children involved.
- Worship will be planned termly by the Headteacher and the Collective Worship Committee and will be based around a biblical text with a linked Wondering Question.
- Records of Clergy acts of worship are kept by Headteacher in a folder.
- Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from an act of worship.
- There should be a sense of order and an atmosphere conducive to worship and prayer.
- Children's achievements, work and learning may be shared and celebrated.
- Acts of worship should contain a variety of experiences providing opportunity for reflection, prayer, quiet, celebration, music and story.
- A variety of teaching aids should be used such as pictures, artefacts, music, dance and drama.
- A variety of prayers are used including those written by the children.
- Christian symbols will be used for prayer and reflection in worship e.g: lighting a candle, cross, crucifix, bread and water etc.

ORGANISATION

We have organised daily collective worship to take place within the context of school assemblies. This allows a variety of formats and thereby fosters worship in a variety of different groupings, from whole school to class.

MONDAY: WHOLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

One class contributes to this collective worship on a rota basis each week celebrating what they have been learning about in school. Year 6 children co-ordinate the collective worship, choosing a hymn and prayers

WHOLE SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (once a month)

Launch of the focus Christian Value for that month led by the Head Teacher.

TUESDAY: WHOLE SCHOOL CLERGY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This clergy collective worship is led by a member of the clergy from the Wycombe benefice. The Collective Worship Committee decides on the theme and then we have linked a bible passage, a wondering question, a picture and the music to each weeks focus.

WEDNESDAY: CLASS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The class teacher leads a Class Collective Worship in response to the clergy led assembly.

The theme for class worship can be based on the 'Wondering Question' as a starting point. One class each week will create a response to the wondering question which is then displayed in the hall. It can be an extension of the theme already planned for the week or a theme which is relevant to the interests and needs of the class at the time e.g. friendship. Special events are often covered in Class Worship times too.

'BIG QUESTIONS' CLERGY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

During the year each year group will have a 'Big Question' session with a member of the clergy. The children are asked to pose questions they would like to ask the week before the session. This may come from the wondering questions, clergy collective worship or just questions they have and would like to explore. The intention of these sessions is to enable children and clergy to engage in deep conversations about faith.

THURSDAY: PRAISE COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This collective worship is for KS1 and 2 children and is led by the music teacher. Songs are used for praise and worship. A prayer is led by the children.

FRIDAY: WHOLE SCHOOL SHARING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Each class leads one Collective Worship a year, when they will perform music, drama, and dance usually connected to a History or Geography topic.

Parents of the year group leading the collective worship are invited to join the worship for this collective worship. The children send out the invitations.

KEY STAGE COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (once a month)

This collective worship is led by the teaching staff on a rota basis and is linked to the focus Christian Value for that particular month so that this can be explored in a little more depth within their age groups

ACHIEVEMENT COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (once a month)

This collective worship is led by the Head teacher and is to celebrate the achievements of the children both in and out of school. Certificates are awarded to a nominated person in each class for an 'achievement' award, a 'smart' award, a 'Christian Value' award and a 'mid-day supervisors' award as well as outside awards such as sporting awards and music awards,

PLANNING THEMES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Headteacher and Collective Worship Committee are made up of the clergy members, RE subject lead, Music lead and parent. They meet twice a term, once to plan the theme for the following term's collective worship and secondly to consider the term ahead and activities planned to coincide with events in the Liturgical year such as the Lent Challenge and Advent.

PRAYER DURING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

As collective worship times can often have an information or performance element it is important that the time for prayer and reflection is clearly demarcated and the atmosphere is appropriate, thereby creating a quiet setting before we join in prayer or thought together.

Artefacts such as shells, flowers, altar cloths and banners made by the children can also be used as additional focal points during our time of worship.

PRAYERS

Children are encouraged to write their own prayers for collective worship. Prayers are also used from published resources and there is a school produced prayer and focus using traditional Anglican and Christian prayers within the Worship Guidelines folder which staff and children may choose from.

The children also have a prayer board in their classroom. Children may put their own prayer requests on the board and these will be passed on to the group by the class teacher. These prayers can be named or anonymous.

Prayers are also said each day in the classroom before lunch and at the end of the day. These can be led by the teacher, classroom assistant or children. Each child has the opportunity to lead the prayers during the term. The prayers used can be from a class collection written and compiled by the children, traditional prayers or prayers from published collections.

CLASS ACTS OF WORSHIP

A collection of picture books covering themes such as love, grief, peace etc are available for staff to use as starting points for class worship, as well as teacher resource books outlining a variety of worship themes.

The theme for class worship can be based on the 'Wondering Question' as a starting point. One class each week will create a response to the wondering question which is then displayed in the hall. It can be an extension of the theme already planned for the week or a theme which is relevant to the interests and needs of the class at the time e.g. friendship. Special events are often covered in Class Worship times too. A template for planning these is attached. (*Appendix 2*)

WORSHIP IN CHURCH

In order to reflect the Anglican aided status of the school and our commitment to forge links with the parish, we hold a collective act of worship in All Saints Parish Church, several times throughout the year. This programme includes:

- A Harvest Service (October)
- A Christmas Carol Service (December)

- An Easter Service (March/April)

Other services, as appropriate are added to this programme during the year.

RESOURCES

A collection of teacher resource books are available to staff providing a large variety of suggestions for Anglican and Christian worship themes.

A collection of books suitable for starting points in class worship has also been established.

A collection of artefacts, pictures and music has also been established for use in collective worship.

Each member of staff has a copy of the Collective Worship Policy and accompanying Staff guidelines in their Staff handbook.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING THIS POLICY

- Collective Worship is evaluated by teaching staff and year 6 children following every clergy collective worship (*Appendix 1*)
- It is also evaluated by the collective worship committee termly at collective worship committee meetings.
- Collective Worship template for planning (*Appendix 2*)
- Big Questions is evaluated after each session by the staff, children and the clergy (*Appendix 3*)