

HUBY CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

'Only my best will do be kind to one another'

Collective Worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which underpin the values and ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self worth. These values are embodied in our school motto and in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples". John 13:34-35

We also actively seek to encourage children to explore and reflect different perspectives of the values and lifestyles of others.

Legal requirements

The law states that in all schools there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. Huby CE (VC) School is a church school so Collective Worship will be based on the doctrine and practice of the Church of England. Collective Worship is a special time in the daily life of the school and underpins the Christian values and ethos of the school. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly.

Aims:

- To develop a sense of community in bringing pupils together to celebrate the shared values and ethos of the school.
- Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.
- To enable pupils to reflect on Christian values and on their own beliefs, offering space for reflection, meditation and silence.
- Provide opportunities to worship God.
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, social and emotional development of pupils, both in school and in the wider community.
- To develop feelings such as awe and wonder and heighten the children's awareness of questions relating to the mysteries of life.
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The Head teacher and Collective Worship leader will:

- Ensure that the legal requirements for worship are met, including a clear statement on Collective Worship in the school prospectus.
- Ensure that Collective Worship reflects the Christian ethos of the school and is based on the principles of the Church of England.
- Set high expectations and monitor Collective Worship, supporting individual teachers when necessary.
- Ensure that Collective Worship is planned and delivered according to the agreed themes.
- Keep up-to-date with the latest documents and current developments in Collective Worship.
- Work closely with the church community and invite visitors into school to lead, enhance and enrich Collective Worship, e.g. Open the Book.
- Encourage a whole-school approach, ensuring parents, governors and staff are kept informed of new developments, changes, resources etc.

Governors will:

- Uphold the Christian foundations of the school. Foundation Governors will have a particular responsibility for ensuring that the Christian ethos is reflected in Collective Worship.
- Ensure that the legal requirements for worship are met.
- Be well-informed through the leadership of the Head teacher.
- Support the staff and Head teacher in implementing the school's policy for Collective Worship.
- Attend, take part in, monitor and lead Collective Worship when appropriate.

All Staff Members will:

- Lead daily worship on a rota basis.
- Decide as a staff who will receive the 'holding cross' for the forthcoming week.
- Follow the bi-annual planning cycle for Collective Worship and record their planning on the weekly sheet, displayed in the staff room
- A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.
- Display the wooden cross to provide a focus for worship, including the appropriate liturgical cloth.
- Use lit candles to mark the beginning of worship when appropriate.
- Use music to set the scene and create an appropriate atmosphere as the children enter and leave Collective Worship.
- Choose appropriate scripture passages to reinforce the learning focus.
- Provide time for quiet reflection, asking the children to close their eyes to aid thinking and concentration.
- Encourage the children to ask questions and reflect on what they see and hear.
- Provide a variety of experiences and activities, employing teaching methods and resources that allow all pupils (irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, academic ability etc.) to have equal access to Collective Worship.

- Provide opportunities for children to make links and connections between different areas of worship and day-to-day life.
- Choose appropriate music, hymns and songs to support and reinforce the messages given in *Collective Worship*.
- At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

Children will:

- Take part in a daily act of worship.
- Celebrate worship through prayer, song, drama and art.
- Have opportunities to celebrate what is good about life in our school, our community, our homes, our surroundings and to share our success and failures.
- Be given opportunities for quiet reflection in shared moments of stillness.
- Be given opportunities to share their thoughts appropriate to the occasion.
- Have opportunities to plan and lead aspects of *Collective Worship*.
- To lead prayer where appropriate.
- To pass the holding cross at the end of the week.

Parents will:

- Be well-informed of the Christian foundations of the school and will be encouraged to support the daily act of *Collective Worship*.
- Be encouraged to attend *Collective Worship* at special times during the school year.

This policy is also supported by the policies for PSHCE and RE.

Reviewed January 2014