

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL
& NOTTINGHAM
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Hucknall National C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy November 2023

Living “life in all its fullness” by
‘Growing together in Learning, Love
and Faith’



Our school vision: Living life in all its fullness by Growing together in Learning, Love and Faith' shapes all we do.

Introduction

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live 'life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

At Hucknall National, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Aims

At Hucknall National collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish. Through Collective Worship, everyone is offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They are offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world is given. Our community is given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar. A time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually is given.

We acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but we aim to make clear the difference between the two. The act of worship is not designated curriculum time and is not subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including Religious Education. The responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body. Collective worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement, but an integral part of school life and central to the Anglican tradition.

Legal Requirements

The trustees/governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the Head Teacher. In accordance with legal requirement, but also reflecting our status as a Church of England school, we provide an act of worship every day for all pupils.

Definition of collective worship

- For the purpose of this policy, “**collective worship**” is an act, which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals come together, and reverence or veneration is paid to a divine being or power.
- To “**take part**” in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

Objectives

Collective worship in our school provides an opportunity for our whole community:

- To experience and respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- To inspire beauty, awe and wonder, deepening our appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment as stewards of God’s creation.
- To explore Christian values and beliefs by learning from the Bible
- To contemplate something of the mystery of God, reflecting on the puzzling questions that life poses
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues and be given the opportunity for deeper Spiritual Encounters - having time to ‘Pause, Live and Reflect’
- To explore our own beliefs and encourage respect of other people’s religious beliefs and practices.
- To cultivate a common ethos with shared values, developing a sense of belonging to a community where the Christian values of Thankfulness, Trust, Love, Hope, Forgiveness and Respect underpin our vision, policies, curriculum and moral code
- To develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that every member of our community has as a unique child of God, made in His image.
- To learn Christian prayers and explore using prayer to communicate with God
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in knowledge and understanding of Church of England practise
- To develop a spirit of courageous advocacy within the school community and wider world.

Guidelines

Planning, content and delivery

Whole school collective worship takes place daily in the hall. We follow a scheme of work created by the Collective Worship Leader, in conjunction with our clergy, to guide our planning. This specifies the bible themes and Christian values that are covered each half term. It also takes into account the Christian Calendar. Each worship contains four elements:

1. **Gathering:** drawing into worship, creating a distinctive atmosphere and feeling of expectation. The lighting of the school candle and response signifies the start of worship. This is led by our Worship Leaders

2. **Engaging:** main input of the worship as outlined in the long-term plan. This could be Bible input, telling a story on a Christian value with props or through drama, using visual images (photographs/paintings) to explore a Christian value, having discussion based on moral dilemmas and asking how Jesus might respond, learning a power verse by heart.

3. **Responding:** Offering all present a time to respond to what they have heard in a way that is appropriate to them, in the spirit of invitation not compulsion. This could be:

- saying the prayer which relates to the value of the worship.
- Asking those present to offer prayers
- Having a time of silent reflection
- Having a time of reflection with music

4. **Sending:** Leaving the act of worship, which should have a purpose. Those present should leave with a sense of being sent out in the power of God's love. This could involve extinguishing the candle, singing a song, leaving to a selected piece of music. This is led by our Worship Leaders.

Every opportunity is taken to involve the children in the planning and leading of collective worship. They light candles, chose music, sing and play instruments, take part in drama and share prayers. Worship Leaders 'Gather' and 'Send Out' at every act of worship but they are also involved in the Engaging and Responding aspects of worship regularly.

The Worship Leaders wrote prayers to go with each of our school values and the children know these prayers. They also know the Lord's Prayer, the Grace and the School Prayer.

Prayers are always said before lunch and at the end of the school day: this is led by midday supervisors in the dining hall and children or teachers at the end of the day.

Other Faiths

Although our worship is wholly Christian in nature, we are committed to the faith traditions and cultures of others, showing tolerance and understanding. We affirm the purpose of a Church school as being, in the words of Lord Runcie:

- to nourish those of faith
- to encourage those of other faiths
- to challenge those who have no faith

Specifics of Worship

Collective worship is led by a variety of staff and regular representatives from Churches. Members of the community, local religious groups, pupils and other positive role models are also encouraged to deliver Collective worship.

Acts of Worship are also held in the Parish Church. These include Harvest, Christmas, Education Sunday, Easter, Pentecost and the end of the academic year.

We also attend time travelling at the local parish church and at Southwell Minster. This provides opportunities for pupils to embrace the Christian faith in a variety of ways.

Weekly Overview of Worship

Monday – Bible story related to Christian value focus, led by Head Teacher

Tuesday – Bible story related to Christian value focus led by St Mary Magdalene Parish Church Clergy Team

Wednesday – Collective worship led by the Deputy Head Teacher

Thursday – Worship led by teaching staff

Friday – Celebratory Awards (FAB)







Monday – Thursday, Collective Worship takes place 2.45pm-3.00pm.

Friday Collective Worship usually takes place at 2.30pm – 3.00 p.m.

- Children walk into the hall, in their lines. Children sit down in their rows ready for worship, whilst music is played.
- The Collective Worship leader for the day greets our community. Worship Leaders begin the 'Gathering' section of worship, saying the appropriate liturgy for the value and lighting the candle.
- During all Collective Worship, at least one hymn is sung – they hymn relates to the school value for the week and has been selected by the children
- A prayer for the value is said.
- At 3.00pm, Collective Worship ends when Worship Leaders say the 'Sending Out' liturgy and extinguish the candle. At this point, music will start and staff will lead their class out.

Our Values

We have six values, which are rooted in the Bible. These underpin everything we do:

 <p>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2 v 7</p>	 <p>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15 v13</p>
 <p>Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honour the King. 1 Peter 2 v17</p>	 <p>Love...always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13 v7</p>
 <p>Forgiveness Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Luke 11 v4</p>	 <p>Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and the most important commandment. 39 The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' Matthew - 22:37-9</p>

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

Termly overviews are completed. Monitoring and evaluation activities include observation of worship by both adults and children, records of children's comments and drawing, photographic records and parent, pupil and staff feedback.

Race Equality

At Hucknall National C of E Primary School we value and respect all people equally regardless of race, religion, colour, cultural background or language. We recognise that while providing a daily act of worship, which is broadly Christian in nature, our pupils are from diverse backgrounds. This diversity is highly valued and means that differing responses to material presented during collective worship are both expected and respected.

Withdrawal

The education Reform Act, 1988 makes provision for pupils and staff to withdraw from Collective Worship, following appropriate notification to the Head Teacher

Signed:.....(Head Teacher) Date:.....

Signed:.....(Chair of Governors) Date:.....