



Collective Worship Policy

Hampreston First School



Introduction

As a Church Aided School, we welcome our responsibility of ensuring that our worship is consistent with the Faith and practise of the Church of England as stated in the Trust Deeds of the school. Worship takes place daily in the school and on occasions is held in the church or elsewhere. In particular, services take place in Hampreston Church at Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects the mission statement, school creed and our core values of 'Respect, Uniqueness, Creativity, Aspiration, Service, Growth'. At Hampreston School we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school's distinctive character.

Why We Believe Collective Worship is Important

Through Collective Worship at Hampreston First School, we aim to:

- Come together in God's presence
- Re-affirm and practise the mission, aims and values of our school
- Stimulate reflection and spiritual growth within the school
- Strengthen and support the school community
- Develop a sense of belonging, sharing, caring and responsibility
- Celebrate Christian festivals
- Share and respond to feeling, issues and events.

For each pupil we aim to offer the opportunity to:

- Offer praise and draw near to God
- Give thanks to God
- Experience stillness, reverence and the presence of God
- Deepen a sense of wonder
- Pray to God
- Receive God's word and Christian truth and relate it to everyday life
- Develop spiritually and morally
- Lay the foundations upon which to base a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Values:

Our values are: Respect, Uniqueness, Creativity, Aspiration, Service, Growth

The core values of the school are reviewed and discussed at the start of each school year and are often addressed within the daily classroom setting. These discussions take place with all staff, governors and children through INSET days, staff meetings, governor meetings, assemblies and in class and school councils.

Our six core values are displayed prominently, discussed frequently, and are demonstrated throughout the life of the school:

- In our talks with children on the playground and in class
- As themes and focus topics in our Creative Curriculum
- In teacher-led and pupil-led assemblies
- Through our charity work and our contribution to the local and global community

THE THREE RS: RESPECT, RELIABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY

Pupils and staff are expected to attend acts of worship, but respect is always shown for each individual's faith.

How do we approach worship?

Our Collective Worship will:

- Allow time for thought and quiet reflection
- Provide an environment in which worship and the opportunities listed above can take place
- Be inclusive and use explanations and language which are appropriate to the ages, abilities and background of pupils
- Promote understanding and feelings of awe, wonder, love and service towards God, the world and other people
- Provide opportunities for pupil involvement

Organisation

Our Collective Worship Policy is part of our RE Policy. We meet every day as a whole school for collective worship and part of that time is devoted to RE teaching. We are mindful of the model of 'gathering', 'engaging', 'responding' and 'sending' as recommended by the Diocese.

Our collective worship planning provides a focus for worship and is made available to all who lead an act of worship.

Daily Acts of Worship

Our 'Philosophy for children question of the week' is displayed in the hall. It relates to the collective worship theme and is referred to throughout the week.

The whole school meets for collective worship every morning.

Monday - Head Teachers Collective Worship

Tuesday - Picture News Collective Worship led by teaching staff which is supported by a PowerPoint and question for the children to explore based on the news of the world.

Wednesday - Act of worship led by the church team

Thursday – Singing together, although this is primarily a time for singing hymns and songs of praise, there is also time for prayer and reflection.

Friday – Celebration Collective Worship led by the SLT. This is for the whole school, including support staff to meet together for this special act of worship which is a celebration of achievement. Children are given work of the week certificates and birthday cards. This is a time to give thanks and praise God.

Children are involved with the planning, delivery and evaluations of Collective Worship. Children are encouraged to write prayers, stories or plays to be included in our worship. They are also encouraged to reflect back on their favourite worship assemblies by using the reflection books in the main foyer. Children are also given the opportunity to suggest songs that we can sing that link to our school values in some way.

We use a variety of music for the beginning and end of the act of worship. We listen and feel this encourages an atmosphere of quiet reflection.

The weekly foci for collective worship can be found at the end of the weekly newsletter.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw children from Collective Worship. Any parent wishing to do so should in the first instance discuss this with the head teacher.

We believe that Collective Worship is an essential element in the moral and spiritual development of our children. We hope, therefore that parents will value it as we do.

Date of policy review: September 2023