

Hawridge and Cholesbury CE School



Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision is for every child within the Hawridge & Cholesbury family to grow, flourish 'have life and ... have it more abundantly' (John 10:10 KLV); to be fascinated, rounded, eager to make a difference, spiritual and have high aspirations through Jesus' teaching and our curriculum.

We live our vision through our natural setting and our school values:

Respect Teamwork Responsibility Understanding Peace Honesty

**Adopted by the Governing Body on 20th March
2024**

Next Review: March 2027

Section 1: Introduction

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to describe our practice in Collective Worship (CW) and the principles upon which this is based.

Aims:

- To celebrate the ideals and values of the school as a Christian community
- To provide an opportunity for children to worship God
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs and respect one they don't agree with
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit and to take a pride in their achievements
- To promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To teach children how to worship and for children to understand they have a choice in how they worship
- To celebrate festivals and different events around the world

Wider school aims/ethos:

This policy supports our school values of Understanding, Respect, Teamwork, Responsibility, Honesty and Peace and is intrinsic to our school vision for every child within the Hawridge & Cholesbury family to grow, flourish 'have life and ... have it more abundantly' (John 10:10 KLV); to be fascinated, rounded, eager to make a difference, spiritual and have high aspirations through Jesus' teaching and our curriculum, (FRESH.)

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

Sources and references:

The following non-statutory guidance was referred to when completing this policy:

In line with the **1988 Education Reform Act**, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Section 2: Procedures and practice

The Collective Worship subject leader is responsible for writing a termly plan for Collective Worship which reflects the aims stated above and takes due note of the Church calendar. The plan for Collective Worship also includes a rota for each member of staff to write a prayer for Monday Celebration Assembly along with a music/ book/ reflection picture choice. Weekly singing assembly gives the pupils the opportunity to learn new songs, practise and sing together in a joyful act of worship. This song is then sung together in the remaining Collective Worship of the same week. We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar.

The themes of our worship may be related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum and our PSHE curriculum or as a response to significant local or world events. We aim to serve our local community whether children come from Christian homes, families of other faiths or of no faith. Having extended this Christian welcome to all God's children we accept them for who they are and try to make our school as sensitively inclusive as possible so sometimes worship includes engagement with the faiths and celebrations of people from outside the Christian tradition. We make all acts of worship invitational, inclusive and inspirational.

There is no set format for worship and variety is encouraged. Examples of the strategies used are storytelling, poetry, interviews, discussions and drama. All worship has either a religious or moral meaning, or is celebrating work or God's creation. Child participation in every aspect of the worship is encouraged.

The RE subject leader and the Collective Worship subject leader use pupil voice to help monitor and inform the impact of Collective Worship annually and report to the governor for RE. Governors are invited to Collective Worships to monitor and be part of whole school acts of Collective Worship.

All teachers, except ECTs, are responsible for planning and delivering Collective Worship as shown on the rota on the termly plan. All teachers are expected to attend daily Collective Worship unless on PPA time.

The governor for RE is responsible for meeting at least once a year with the collective worship leader for discussing Collective Worship strengths and areas for development, and for reporting these to the governing body.

Organisation:

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

Collective Worship is timetabled to take place daily in the school hall and ranges between 15 - 30 minutes. An act of prayer is shared in classes at the end of the day and before lunch.

The pattern for assemblies each week is as follows:

- Monday: Celebration Assembly led by the Headteacher
- Tuesday: Singing assembly led by the Music Subject Lead
- Wednesday: Whole School Collective Worship led by class teachers
- Thursday: Collective Worship led by a vicar (currently either Rev Darren Dalton or Rev Andrew Patterson)
- Friday: Key Stage assemblies or Class assemblies

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We enable the children to understand that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children. We

encourage the active participation of all children. Use is made of ICT in the form of projected slides and recording equipment. Year 6 monitors support the teachers with the computing slides.

Parental partnership:

Parents are invited to Collective Worship to attend special event such as Harvest assembly, Palm Service, Mothering Sunday, Christmas services and Class Assemblies.

Individual parents are invited to offer support and personal experience.

Right of withdrawal:

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Headteacher will keep a record of any children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Collective worship led by outside agencies:

Over the course of the year and in collaboration with outside agencies, individuals, organisations and visitors may lead Collective Worship so that children have a deeper understanding of local and global events.

Collective worship led by pupils:

Each class leads at least one Collective Worship during the year to which parents are invited. Pupils lead other worship as appropriate. e.g., the school council or when feeding back from an initiative or project.

Resources:

References to online resources which may support teachers when planning Collective Worship are made in the planning document.

Section 3: Concluding notes

Monitoring and review:

The governor with responsibility for RE is primarily responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy. This will be through annual discussion with the subject leader. The governor will report on this to the Full Governing Body annually. The work of the subject leader may also be subject to review by the Headteacher as part of our appraisal arrangements.

Other documents and appendices:

The CW policy should be read in conjunction with our policies for RE and Spirituality.