

Collective Worship Policy

Horwich Parish CE Primary School



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***Our vision is to be a school where everyone can achieve and “let their light shine” both individually and collectively as a community.
Learning to love each other as Jesus loved us, respecting each other and growing into the people God has called us to be.***

Contents

Section		Page
1	Introduction	3
2	Aims	4
3	The Anglican Christian Tradition	4
4	Other Faiths and Beliefs.	4
5	Implementation	4
6	Organisation and Delivery of Collective Worship	5
7	Developing Worship	6
8	Self-Assessment and Inspection	6
9	Withdrawal	6

Our school Christian values

are

Love and Respect

We explore other values including those found in Roots and Fruits.



Introduction

Horwich Parish C.E. School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School.

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values of love and respect, and celebrates the central role that each child to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian calendar. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and Governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities are taken to use prayer and reflection exercises in the curriculum generally, and graces before lunch and prayers at the end of the school day.

Aims

Collective worship at Horwich Parish C.E. School will support the school's distinctive vision and Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for members of the school community:

- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to encounter God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect in ways that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions, belief systems and other world views.
- to nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to take responsibility for their own conduct, charitable giving, and social actions so that they might contribute positively to a multi-diverse society
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together
- to experience silence in a busy world
- to encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on, the teachings of the Holy Bible

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Festivals from other faiths celebrated during worship e.g. Eid, Diwali

Other Faiths and Beliefs

- Collective Worship enables pupils to explore the beliefs of others. Through stories, music, visits and visitors we can begin to develop a sympathetic understanding of the attitudes and beliefs we share with members of other faith communities.

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, each school must provide a broadly Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors, e.g. Representative from Christian Aid, in consultation with the Collective Worship Leader. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using a wealth of resources.

This ensures there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies available on our website; horwichparish.net. This includes discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Organisation and Delivery of Collective Worship

The agreed pattern of weekly worship:

Day	Time	Composition	Location	Led by
Monday	9:00 -9.30am.	Whole school	Church	HT/ Members of Clergy/Worship group
Tuesday	9:00 – 9.30am.	Whole school iSing POP classroom worship	Classrooms	Teachers
Wednesday	9:00 -9.30am.	Whole school Picture News	Classrooms	Teachers
Thursday	9:00 -9.30am.	Whole school	Church	Singing practice HT/ AT
Friday	9:00 -9.30am.	Whole school	Church	Celebration worship HT

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including (e.g. music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

We expect the pupils to walk into the hall or church quietly and respectfully. We sometimes encourage the children to join in with a song whilst waiting for everyone to arrive. Acts of worship in the classrooms are an opportunity for the pupils to reflect and as such, they are encouraged to respect one another's thoughts and opinions.

The length of time allocated to specific worship may vary, but we aim for most acts of worship to last about 20-30 minutes.

Our acts of worship are based on Christian values. As a school, our chosen Christian values are love and respect and we have also identified forgiveness, compassion, courage and patience as our key values to explore this academic year. We will focus on each value a week every half term, to develop further understanding of the impact they can have on our daily lives. Courageous Advocacy is also explored within these values during worship.

Each classroom has a reflection area, which is central to class worship. The Christian value we are focussing on each week and a selection of prayers are displayed on it, alongside activities completed during class worship.

The Worship Group are encouraged to participate in acts of worship at least once a half term. They will share Bible readings, lead prayers and perform simple dramas or plays. They meet during once a week to discuss their participation/ contributions to our worship in school.

We value our close links with our local church, Holy Trinity, and welcome members of the clergy to lead our acts of worship on a regular basis.

We participate in Education Sunday at Holy Trinity each year, encouraging children to be involved in worship in church.

The children in Year Five take part in admission to receive communion before confirmation classes (*in line with the Diocesan policy*) led by a member of the clergy from Holy Trinity. This is then followed by a service in church, preparing the children for life as a Christian.

Parents are invited to participate in worship in Church, at present on Special occasions- Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter and the Leavers Service at the end of the school year.

We have a Parent Prayer Group who meet weekly to spend time praying for the needs of the school community.

Our Ethos Group meet every month. This group is made up of staff, parents, a church representative and children.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The Collective Worship Leader attends regular professional development with Manchester and Blackburn Dioceses and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-Assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community each half term. Different ways of evaluating worship by staff, pupils and parents are being further developed and will always play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Manchester.

Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none and is in no way intended to evangelise or proselytise.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.