

Hugh Joicey C of E First School, Ford

Collective Worship Policy 2023

We will grow well, flourish and live life in all its fullness.



Introduction

At Hugh Joicey C of E First School, Ford, we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual who will achieve their best and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live. We are committed to raising standards, values and self esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

As a Church of England First School we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life, the heartbeat. Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements for a voluntary controlled church school which states that worship will be Christian in content with an Anglican emphasis.

Aims

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the **spiritual, moral, social and cultural development** of all children and staff. Our policy for collective worship supports this by recognising that Collective Worship provides important opportunities for our pupils' and staff's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Providing a **daily act of collective worship** for all pupils enables them to:

- worship God,
- reflect on Christian values for schools, personal development, multi-faith festivals and curriculum aptitudes
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered
- respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet
- experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation which can include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection
- begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship

We ensure that the daily act of Collective Worship is distinctly Christian in content and follows the liturgical calendar.

We ensure that Collective Worship is led by senior leaders, teachers, children, clergy and visitors.

We will include a range of creative opportunities e.g music, silence, symbols and drama
We will involve pupils e.g members of the Collective Worship Crew opening and closing worship, pupils writing their own prayers, reading in Church, choosing music.

We will celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

We aim to provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.

Worship can take place in the school hall, classroom, outdoors, the Forest and the Church.

Content of Daily worship As a Church of England school the content of our worship is organised to:

Follow a half termly, 2 year cycle to cover the 12 Christian Values, using the Roots and Fruits scheme.

Cover all the major Christians festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

Be rooted in Bible teaching

Use the school prayers, Lord's prayer and other prayers written by pupils and led by the Collective Worship Crew

Be presented using a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.

Opportunities for children and families to feedback their opinions about Collective Worship are encouraged through questionnaires each year.

Special Services and Visitors We value our links with the staff and congregation of St. Michael and All Angels Church, Ford. We hold our Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas, Easter and Harvest services in church. The vicar regularly leads worship and always attends our services in the church. Where possible we also invite other members of the community in to lead worship. All visitors are welcome to attend our Collective worship.

Inclusion and withdrawal Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents /carers are encouraged to discuss the issues with the Headteacher. Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience but we hope that all staff will feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school by participating in collective worship.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

6th February 2024