



Harting CofE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Owner: Curriculum Committee

Reviewers: Full Governor Body

Date Last Reviewed: January 2020

Date Next Review: January 2022

Document Location: Staff 't' drive-policies from 2014 onwards-
statutory and hardcopy in statutory policy file in school office

Collective worship Policy

Vision Statement

Harting School aims to be a 'learning family', reflecting a deeply embedded Christian ethos. Our key Christian values are 'love and respect', which we consider should play a part in all that we do. Everyone is therefore valued and deemed to be of equal importance, yet plays a part in different ways, to inspire a thriving and happy community.

We endeavour, therefore, to support children to learn academically and develop morally and spiritually. We believe that every child should have equal opportunities to access this provision.

Harting School offers a safe environment and engenders positive approaches to learning; we collaborate to prepare children for life and develop their tolerance and respect for others, irrespective of their backgrounds. By creating an exciting curriculum, whilst offering challenge to all, we expect children to become 'well rounded' people to live within the modern world.

Collective Acts of Worship

Collective worship is distinctly Christian and seeks to develop understanding and respect of all peoples, irrespective of their faiths and beliefs. The themes for worship are planned over four years to develop Christian values with a particular focus on the school's key ones: love and respect.

Acts of Worship are:

1. Inclusive:
 - are pupil centred and relevant to the needs of the children
 - respect diversity

2. Educational in that:
 - bible-based values are shared and link to school's aims
 - are relevant to current issues (and curriculum where appropriate)
 - celebrate differences and achievements
 - are well planned and mapped, related to Christian values

3. Spiritual in that they:
 - allow opportunities to be still and reflect in a calm, peaceful atmosphere
 - invite worship
 - provide opportunities for spirituality
 - allow opportunities for prayer and/or reflection
 - provide opportunities for pupils to take part and lead worship

Worship encourages reverence, spiritual reflection about faith and worship of God, rather than simply a meeting to discuss day-to-day concerns of the school. It is, however, generally referred to as a 'Assembly'.

Spiritual development

In order that worship may contribute to the spiritual development of our children we aim:

- to celebrate and reflect upon the ways in which God's presence can be discovered in the world and in our own lives
- to examine the possibilities of the existence of that which is greater than ourselves and how this has and is interpreted within the Christian faith

- to recognise that people hold different beliefs and outlooks and to nurture respect for them and their beliefs
- to experience and reflect on the universal aspects of experience such as awe, mystery, joy, hope, value and loss and to develop the use of symbols to express the beliefs and feelings that may lie behind these experiences
- to cultivate personal concern and an attitude of responsibility towards the world around us and a sense of commitment to one another
- to create a focus for worship by the use of music, hymns/songs, prayers and talks, which usually involves participation.

Organisation

The responsibility for the organisation of Collective Worship will be with the Headteacher, in consultation with the Rector at the Parish Church and leaders of the Congregational Church who contribute to this weekly, along with the team leader for the bible-based Monday worship. Normally all children take part in daily Collective Worship. This can take place in any existing grouping i.e. whole school, class or year R-6 groupings. It may take place in school at any time of the school day and different locations.

The current pattern of School Assembly/Collective Worship in our school is:

DAY	TIME	LEADERSHIP
Monday	8.50am 9.00am alternate weeks	Headteacher or Church team: bible- based
Tuesday	8.50am	Elders from Harting Congregational Church
Wednesday	8.50 am	Music teacher and Head: Singing and prayer
Thursday	8.50am	Headteacher/other staff: C of E style worship
	8.50am Small group (y1-6)	Church elder and teaching staff The Big Question
Friday	8.50am or 2.30pm	Headteacher/ classes 'Sharing Assembly' approx. every 3 weeks – led by classes and friends/families invited

Question sessions ('The Big Question') are led by members of the church with different groups of children across KS1 and KS2, supported by teaching staff, to foster deeper spiritual understanding of key issues. This takes place each week and is followed by a monthly collective worship to share the Christian perspective on the 'Big Question' with all pupils.

Withdrawal

Parents may withdraw a child wholly or partly from Collective Worship and are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The school will be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from Collective Worship. Parents are invited to discuss the withdrawal from Collective Worship with the Headteacher.

Values

Christian values underpin all collective worship and are planned eg love, respect, trust, etc. When focusing on the musical aspect of worship, prayer usually emphasises this or

is relevant to the current theme and songs are selected to support subsequent worship assemblies.

Planning and Recording

The planning of worship will be led by the Headteacher, in collaboration with the rector along with other regular leaders as well as the children's worship team. The person responsible for leading the Act of Worship will generally take responsibility for the detailed short-term planning and resourcing however.

Records of children's responses are kept to inform future planning and review impact on their moral code.

Monitoring

The Headteacher is responsible for collecting and collating information to ensure that:

- 1) Support and suggestions may be given to members of staff for future reference
- 2) Worship takes place in a variety of styles
- 3) There is a balance between all of the possible inputs: children, staff visitors etc
- 4) There are plentiful opportunities for children consideration, thought, response and reflection
- 5) Stated aims are met

Assemblies are regularly monitored to establish the level of understanding and enjoyment of children across the school. The Foundation Governor evaluates worship at intervals over the year and it is on-going within the school.

Further information

- 1) Worship songs are selected by the year 6 'Worship team', in collaboration with the Headteacher, to link with the planned themes and to offer a range of styles of worship ie both contemporary and traditional
- 2) Although the school hall is used for the majority of worship assemblies, other areas may be used eg Roundhouse
- 3) A range of styles of worship, with a variety of leaders, are offered throughout the week: bible-based; Congregational church led; traditional C of E and more contemporary Christian styles. Year 6 worship team is encouraged to create and lead worship assemblies at least every half-term, along with other pupil groups.
- 4) Bible-based themes are central to collective worship and explicit bible stories are acted out and presented at least fortnightly
- 5) Relationship with the Parish and Congregational church:
The village churches work closely together – they explicitly pray for the leadership of the school each week. The school therefore regularly attends worship for Remembrance, Christmas, Easter and at the end of Summer term. Additionally, the year 6 participate in the Chichester Cathedral Leavers' service each year.
- 6) Prayer may take the form of quiet reflection or a specific prayer. Children are given opportunities to reflect or pray and may lead this. This may be sung eg grace in classes or Taize style prayer with children's voiced prayers