



HEYTESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Working together so that all may flourish

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 9 v1

Through adhering to our vision, we aim to ensure that the school environment is a safe and caring place where our children can flourish spiritually, mentally and physically regardless of ethnicity, belief system or gender orientation, thus valuing all God's children.

School lead	C Bourne
Governor lead	Rev Trudy Hobson
Last Review	June 2018
Revised	November 2019
Next review	November 2021

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Local Requirements

Heytesbury Church of England Primary School is Voluntary Aided. The Trust Deeds state that worship should be in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. In accordance with legal requirements, an act of worship is provided daily. Staff are encouraged to attend the act of worship.

Rationale

It is our aim that children and staff should enjoy acts of worship together in order to reflect how faith and belief impact on our daily lives. There is a clear expectation that all children will participate in worship. Collective worship contributes to the spiritual development and growth of pupils and staff and to the building up of the school community. Acts of worship allow the development of an understanding of the Anglican traditions which underpin the Christian faith.

Collective worship aims to:

- be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners so that they can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and life within and beyond school;
- provide opportunities for reflection about life issues and allow pupils and staff to respond with integrity;
- strengthen and support the school, local and wider community;
- challenge learners of all backgrounds to embark on their own journey of spirituality, and develop the value of prayer, stillness, and reflection;
- include Biblical material, and an introduction to the style and practice of the Church of England within the context of the Church's Year, including traditional responses and prayers, hymns, time for reflection and a focus on Values for Life;
- deepen the spiritual dimension of life and explore an awareness of the Divine;
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling all learners to have a strong understanding of the Holy Trinity.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Heytesbury School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate achievement and effort;
- sharing and experiencing differences, successes and difficulties;
- the development of a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- providing a break from the rush of life;
- exploring feelings and emotions;

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- speaking, listening and responding to an audience;
- developing inner and spiritual awareness;
- embedding traditional British values.

Planning

Acts of worship routinely explore a termly Christian value, are related to events in the Church Year or focus on a developmental area of school, for example, the vision vessel. A rich variety of prayers, music, story and symbol will be used to enhance worship; times of reflection and silence are included. Structured reflection may be used in response to international, national or local events. The 'Values for Life' resource is one of the materials used as a basis of the planning for collective worship – other methods of planning, for example, through the children's questions are used to provide variety.

The worship leader provides outline planning for each term's worship. A display to celebrate, enhance and provide a reference for each Christian value will be situated in the hall, and regularly changed. In order that the children should understand that our values are firmly Christian, Biblical stories are central to worship and those relevant to the current value are shared with the children.

Staff, pupils or visitors who deliver worship follow the structure: gather, engage, respond, send.

Vision vessel and Christian Values

Following the development of our school Vision Vessel, the values cycle was adapted to ensure and embed a clear understanding of the significance of our vision which includes the British Values, linking the latter to teachings from the Bible.

Worship Plan:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year A 2017/2018	Friendship	Courage	Wisdom	Truthfulness	Forgiveness	Thankfulness
Year B 2018/2019	Trust	Compassion	Perseverance	Creativity	Service	Responsibility
Year C 2019/2020	Our vision vessel	British values/ Advent	Spirituality	Spirituality	The Holy Trinity	Hope
Year D 2020/2021	Justice	Humility	Respect	TBA (dependent on children's needs)	TBA (dependent on children's needs)	TBA (dependent on children's needs)

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Our timetable for Collective worship

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Type	Whole School	Whole School	Sung	Class	Celebration
Led by	Head teacher	Open the Book	Mrs Bourne	Class teacher/ Rev Trudy	Y6

Evaluation and reflection

All participants are involved in the evaluation process.

Staff may add comments to planning documents to inform future planning. Time is given in staff meetings to review and evaluate the last term's Acts of Collective Worship.

At the end of each term, the children will reflect on the worship, doing so in any form which is appropriate and which is chosen by the teacher or the pupils. Year books, completed at the end of each term, document class topics and learning as well as termly values.

Every two years, a questionnaire will be given to all stakeholders. This will inform future planning and delivery of worship.

Opportunities for acts of worship at other times of the school day

At certain points of the school day, for example, before lunch or at the end of the day, or when otherwise appropriate, children are enabled and encouraged to engage in a moment of quiet contemplation. Silent, traditional, or spontaneous prayers are led by the children, or staff, in order to involve each individual in active participation and engagement with this time of reflection.

Areas of reflection are situated in each classroom. A garden of Remembrance is located at the front of the school. Children or staff may use these spaces as they feel necessary.

Written prayers and worries are collected separately in the reflection area of classrooms and passed on to the vicar. They are then taken to church where they are placed on the altar and become a focal point for congregational prayer.

Monitoring

Collective Worship is regularly monitored, including within the annual 'Church School Audit'.

Foundation governors attend worship periodically and are included in the monitoring process.

Monitoring will include consideration of resourcing, budget and training needs.

The right of withdrawal from Worship

We wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that members of the school community have the legal right to withdraw themselves or their children from worship on the grounds of conscience.

We would ask any person considering this to contact the head teacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education in our schools.