



Hawridge and Cholesbury CE School

Collective Worship - May 2015

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 provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to celebrate the ideals and values of the school as a Christian community;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- 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.

Wider school aims/ethos:

This policy supports our school values of Understanding, Respect, Teamwork, Responsibility, Honesty and Peace.

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.

Consultation:

This policy was written by Helen Dunford, RE leader, in consultation with

- *Teaching staff – summer 2015*
- *Pupils – school council discussion*
- *Governors – full governing body meeting, 1.7. 2015*
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Sources and references:

The following non-statutory guidance was 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 R.E. leader is responsible for writing an annual plan for Collective Worship which reflects the aims stated above and takes due note of the Church calendar. This plan also details the hymns sung and the music played for entrance to and exit from the worship. We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Occasionally the themes of our worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum and the SEAL Initiative, but are always Christian in nature. 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.

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 are celebrating work or God's creation. Child participation in every aspect of the worship is encouraged. Simple records are kept of the worship to provide evidence of a good range of topics, resources and approaches being used.

The RE leader will monitor the impact of Collective Worship annually and report to the governor for RE.

All teachers are responsible for planning and delivering Collective Worship as shown on the rota on the yearly 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 RE 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. On occasions key stage or class Collective Worship may take place if appropriate. A prayer is said before lunch and a prayer is said in classes at the start and end of the day.

The pattern for assemblies each week is as follows:

- Monday: Headteacher's Assembly or local minister's assembly (fortnightly)
- Tuesday: Parish Priest's assembly
- Wednesday: Hymn Practice or class assembly.
- Thursday: SEAL Assembly led by class teacher
- Friday: Celebration Assembly led by Headteacher

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.

Parental partnership

Parents are invited to Collective Worship on Tuesdays which is led by the local vicar. They also attend special event Collective Worship such as Harvest assembly, Palm Service, Mothering Sunday, Christmas services and class assemblies.

Individual parents offer support and personal experience. E.g. Eid collective worship 13.10.14.

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 other subject leaders, visitors may lead Collective Worship. For example Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Amarni Africa.

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 eg, the school council or when feeding back from an initiative or project (house captains, Go Givers project)

Resources:

Collective Worship resources are stored in the cupboard under the pigeon holes in the staff room. The RE leader is responsible for maintaining and updating these. References to online resources 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 and consideration of the evidence included in the subject leader portfolio. The governor will report on this to the curriculum committee annually. The work of the subject leader may also be subject to review by the headteacher as part of our performance management arrangements.

Other documents and appendices:

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

Appendix 1: 2014/15 CW Year plan.

Governor approval and review dates:

This policy was approved by the full governing body in July 2015. It is due for review by May 2018.