



The Collaboration of East Harptree and Ubley Church of England VC Primary Schools
Collective Worship Policy
Celebrating 'life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Introduction:

This policy should be taken and used as part of the Collaboration of East Harptree & Ubley Church of England Schools' overall strategy and implemented within the context of our Christian values and Vision Statements:

'East Harptree Church of England School aims to encourage each child to dream, believe, achieve together.'

'Ubley Church of England School aims to equip each child to be caring, capable and confident in an ever-changing world.'

Collective Worship in our Church schools enables every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It helps educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

In East Harptree and Ubley Church of England Primary Schools worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the schools' visions. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

In our collaboration schools, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the

Christian (*and other faiths*¹) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.²

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, “that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, is not relevant. Worship in the Collaboration of East Haptree and Ubley CofE Primary Schools should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body school have the responsibility for ensuring that the schools meet the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

Within the collaboration, there are a number of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

¹ Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate a

ct, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894)



It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in the Collaboration of East Harptree and Ubley CofE Primary Schools aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the schools' visions are unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving e.g. mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Older pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.



We will ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

How Collective worship is organised

The organisation of Collective Worship should be listed here under the headings

Leadership

- Daily worship is led across the week by the headteacher, members of staff, small groups of pupil, our Parish reverend and other church clergy and church community teams e.g. Open the Book
- Support and guidance regarding our termly value and service focus is given to visitors leading worship.

Planning

- Our weekly Christian Values Worship is led by the Headteacher using Roots and Fruits and is planned and supported by a termly team of pupils.
- Our weekly Celebration Service is planned and led by the Headteacher and supported by class teachers and pupils.
- Our weekly worships led by the church clergy are planned and led by Rev Katrina Dykes.

- Our weekly singing worship is planned and led by a member of the teaching staff.
- Our weekly class worship is planned and led by the class teachers and pupils.
- Regular Open the Book worship is led by an East Harptree Community Team.
- Our values worship reflects the cycle of the Church year and this is also supported by our church clergy who lead a variety of specific services e.g. Pentecost. Our Christian values are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship across the week. Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school through the Roots and Fruits resource and specialist input from our supportive clergy members. Our pattern for worship reflects Anglican tradition with a range and variety of materials used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle. The Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored and spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured.
- Additional termly services are planned and led by the pupils and teachers as appropriate e.g. Harvest, Nativity, Easter, End of Year Celebrations.

Organisation

- The different settings and places for worship include within the schools and the village churches; the worship spaces are made special to embrace an atmosphere for worship by using:

The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year,
Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point,
Ritual and liturgical responses.
- Daily worship is held either in the morning or at the end of the school day and a minimum of 20 minutes is allocated but can be extended depending upon the particular worship

Staff development and training

We aim to ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.



Monitoring and evaluation

- The following are involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship e.g children, staff, link/foundation governors, clergy
- Evidence to show how the monitoring and evaluation of worship has led to its strengthening and development over time is held by the schools' leaders.

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