



Policy Title Collective Worship
Policy Area Collective Worship
Policy Leader(s) Mrs Homer
Policy Date Oct 2017
Policy Review Oct 2020

WORSHIP POLICY

Vision

The staff and governors at St Hilda's Primary School see the main purpose of the school as that of providing an excellent education both academic and social in a Christian context for all its pupils. One of the school's main aims is the achievement of high academic standards and a sense of personal worth for all its pupils through encouraging them to do their best and fulfil their individual potential. Subject to its physical capacity our school therefore welcomes all children from the neighbourhood, whatever their family faith, if parents wish an education in a Christian context for their children. We believe that such education is supported and shaped by taking place in the context of worship, where the whole school family is able to express gratitude to God for the opportunity to learn and grow together to seek God's grace in all that we do as a school.

Aims

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To experience and enter into Christian worship
- To develop knowledge of Christian faith in the context of worship
- To grow spiritually through engaging with the biblical message
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To develop community spirit by engaging with our faith communities
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience by nurturing individual faith journeys
- To reinforce positive attitudes and encourage unity
- To celebrate diversity and the life of the school in the presence of God

Current Organisation of Collective Worship at our School

In accordance with our aims and the statutory requirements, at our school collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. Worship is organised on both a key stage and a whole school basis and is led by staff, visitors and the pupils.

One of the ways our school fulfils its Christian character is by having services led by the local clergy. These take place weekly and include the celebration of major Christian festivals.

We can reassure parents, however, that our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity which will compromise their own family faith. The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all pupils whatever their background is of prime concern to us at school. However, Christian values are

A Christian School: one family, learning with love, excelling through faith



definitely built into our ethos and teaching and are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our acts of worship are based. A copy of this cycle is available to parents on request.

The Nature of Collective Worship at our School

As a multi-faith community here at St Hilda's, all staff and governors are committed to ensuring that the worshipping opportunities offered to pupils pay due regard to family background, to their ages, their aptitude and their interests.

Through discussions and in-service training, the school has evolved a definition of worship which is the gathering together of our school community to learn about and praise God.

It therefore involves us gathering together to express feelings of respect and worth for ourselves, others, for our local community and our world as gifts from God, as distinct from meeting together simply to exchange information or deal with organisational issues.

Learning Expectations and Intended Outcomes

Education, celebration, praise and hope are therefore essential features of our worship here at St Hilda's C of E Primary School. We are not a faith community like a church gathered community, so our aim through worship is primarily to educate our children and make them aware of what it means to be a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our environment.

In doing we hope to create an atmosphere in which pupils are invited rather than compelled to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own experiences and the experiences of others, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is therefore about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Inclusion

The staff and governors at the school are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship, whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Delivering Collective Worship at our School

In our school the process of worship takes place through a variety of media, song, story, drama, music, poetry etc. It takes place through class assemblies as well as whole-school assemblies. Worship can be led by the local clergy, head teacher, head of school, teachers and pupils.



All collective worship in our school is timetabled. There is a values themed worship each week, a praise worship through singing assembly, a Heartsmart collective worship half-termly followed by PHSE lessons led by the teacher and collective worship delivered by the local clergy or guest speakers.

In addition to these services, St Hilda's holds a weekly VIP assembly where some children are awarded for showing good values or working well. These celebrations include worship through prayer and song. Class worship also happens weekly and is linked to the social and emotional aspects of learning themes. This can involve stories, role play, prayer and song. Each class has a RE area/display which includes a Bible, prayers and religious books.

All staff and children currently take part in collective worship, a position governors actively encourage, though the right to withdraw exists

Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation strategies currently used by the staff for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:

- observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest shown during the sessions
- Feedback from pupils, written and verbal
- parents' comments, written or verbal
- observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another.

Any outcomes from evaluation will be linked to school development planning.

Review This policy will be reviewed every three years by the RE Coordinator, the link Governor and the Head Teacher. Any alterations that come from this review will be discussed and ratified by the appropriate governing body sub-committee.

Written by: Mrs A Homer October 2017

Ratified by the Governing Body on: November 2017