



# Harting CofE Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

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Reviewers: Full Governor Body

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# Collective Worship Policy

## Vision Statement

Guided by our Christian values, at Harting Church of England Primary School we motivate and inspire our community's love of learning through fostering a curiosity of the world around them, developing resilient and enthusiastic lifelong learners. In our ever changing world we aim to equip everyone with skills to continue on their individual journeys of discovery, enabling all to flourish and live life in all its fullness.

Through our carefully planned provision and inclusive practise we support every child, irrespective of background or need, to achieve the best possible outcomes in all areas of their development, including both morally and spiritually.

With Christian values sitting at the heart of all that we do, our dedicated team of staff ensure that children are both supported and challenged in reaching the very best outcomes in all that they do.

## 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 to deepen understanding of the school's Christian values.

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
- . 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. 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 Collective Worship in our school is:

DAY	TIME	LEADERSHIP
Monday	14:30 – 14:55	Headteacher led collective worship /Assembly
Tuesday	14:30 – 14:55	Alternating weeks: Linda Huggett from Harting Congregational Church Teacher led value based collective worship
Wednesday	14:30 – 14:55	Singing Assembly with act of collective Worship
Thursday	14:30 – 14:55	Rev Harriet Neale Stevens from St Mary and St Gabriel Church leading value based collective worship.
Friday	14:30 – 14:55	Celebration Assembly with act of collective worship

In addition to whole school activities children say a pray before lunch giving thanks for the food they are about to receive.

### Structure of collective worship

Collective Worship must be **Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring**  
(See the Collective Worship Guidance: T:\2021 Onwards\2022 2023\Collective Worship)

1. Gathering and Welcome
  - Gathering Invitation, Lighting a Candle
2. Word (Bible Stories, Drama, Music, Film)
  - We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible.
3. Responding to the word (Reflecting on our own lives)
  - We respond to what we have heard and seen.
4. Sending out
  - Song ,Prayer, Sending out words

### Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious education lessons and collective worship. However, we would encourage parents to meet with the Headteacher before making such considerations to ensure there is a full understanding of the school's practices in these areas.

### 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. 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 and staff evaluations of collective worship are kept to inform future planning and review their impact and effectiveness.

### 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

Collective worship is regularly monitored by children, staff and clergy 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) Although the school hall is used for the majority of worship assemblies, other areas may be used eg Roundhouse
- 2) The children visit both St Mary and St Gabriel Church and the Harting Congregational church at regular points across the year.
- 3) At Easter and Christmas the children attend St Mary and St Gabriel Church for acts of collective worship.
- 4) 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.
- 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.