

Hope Hamilton C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

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Policy Review Date:	Nov 27	Headteacher: Fiona Brooks	Signature: <i>F Brooks</i>	Date: 7.11.25
Ratified by Governing Body:				
Insert Name: Stephen Wadsworth		Insert Signature: <i>Stephen Wadsworth</i>		Insert Date: 08.12.25

Introduction

At Hope Hamilton C of E Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. We also appreciate and note other faiths supporting the context of our school, making links between different faiths and Christianity. For example, how some stories are shared between Christianity and Islam. We are also exploring intercultural worship and how Christianity is a global religion across different countries and cultures.

Collective Worship is an oasis in the school day when children meet together with members of staff in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate. It is regarded as 'quality' time and represents something special or separate from ordinary school routine. Praise, prayer, silence, a sense of community, common ideal, the power of the spoken word, ritual, and an awareness of important experiences all contribute to worship. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Above all else, the role of Collective Worship at Hope Hamilton is to enable children and adults to flourish spiritually and to support the theologically rooted Christian vision – *'Love one another as I have loved you'* John 15:12 - to impact on children's and adult's lives here and at home.

During Collective Worship some children will be worshipping and some will be experiencing something approaching worship; others will be finding out what it is like to worship by being with those who are.

Worship is invitational and children are consistently reminded of this.

Rationale

Collective Worship:

- gives children the opportunity to enter into experiences which lie at the heart of religion. These experiences help them to learn about religious worship and provide a framework for later understanding.
- fosters a reverential attitude to God, the Divine, the transcendent.
- encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- provides an opportunity, for those who can use it, to participate in religious worship.
- allows us to learn and celebrate values we hold to be important.
- brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community with an identity of its own.
- is the source of much interesting and thought-provoking knowledge.
- offers pleasurable expression through literature, art, music and drama.
- makes an important, though not exclusive, contribution to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims and Principals

Collective Worship at Hope Hamilton should:

- be based upon Christian beliefs and values
- have a sense of occasion
- provide experiences within which pupils' spiritual development may flourish
- be a means of expressing the ethos and values of the school
- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- allow opportunities for children to explore their own beliefs
- develop children's spirituality
- allow children to lead, participate and respond
- help pupils develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of other.
- promote respect, tolerance and understanding for those with differing beliefs and backgrounds

Objectives

The objectives of Collective Worship at Hope Hamilton are to:

- serve the Christian vision of the school – *'Love one another as I have loved you'*
- affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- provide children and staff with an opportunity to 'talk to God' through prayer and reflection
- introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer
- create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere, conducive to worship, including the manner of entry and exit
- encourage, in children, a thoughtful and reflective attitude
- help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness
- enable pupils to use silence for reflection and contemplation
- raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life
- enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian, festivals and Biblical material
- help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world
- enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others
- enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them
- help children distinguish between right and wrong
- affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility
- celebrate individual and collective achievements
- develop a sense of community within the school
- celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governors.
- Ensuring the arrangements for Collective Worship serve and develop the Christian vision to *'love one another as I have loved you'*.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis, ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. The co-ordinator also keeps in touch with national developments in school worship and acts in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.

Monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship is an on-going process carried out by both staff and children in order to inform future planning.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Each week the worship follows a theme that the Church and Collective Worship co-ordinator have planned together. The structure of collective worship includes music, a story or talk, a period of reflection, a prayer/the Lord's Prayer, and a song of worship. It follows the four-part sequence of gathering, engaging, responding and sending. See the Collective Worship file on the server for further information.

- Monday – Head Teacher led – introducing the theme for the week – in key stages
- Tuesday: Staff led – in key stages
- Wednesday: Praise Wednesday – worship and singing – whole school
- Thursday: Growing Faith Hub led – whole school
- Friday: Class led on the week's theme, followed by Special Mentions certificates – whole school

Both teachers and support staff attend daily collective worship sessions. Sessions that are whole school serve the Christian vision as we join together as a school family. Sessions that are in key stages enable staff to support our children who predominantly have English as an additional language and are not from a background of Christian tradition to understand the key teaching and principles of the 'engaging' section.

Elements of Collective Worship

There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be the appropriate form of expression.

Atmosphere is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the collective worship are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. A table with a cross made for the school by friends in Bethlehem (made from olive wood) and a candle help to set the scene.

Music is played at the beginning and end of the collective worship. The teacher leading the worship selects music. Pupils' attention is drawn to it each day and a simple explanation/ description may be given.

Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Bible stories and stories of a religious or of a secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

Songs are chosen from a wide variety of intercultural, traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One is used for each collective worship, related to the theme. Some are learned by heart and actions are incorporated, whilst others are displayed on the projector. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure. During weekly Praise Wednesday sessions, children have the opportunity to learn new songs and practise old ones too.

Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship provides opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others. Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord's Prayer, children's prayers and the school prayer may be used and time is taken to ensure children understand the content of the prayers. A candle is sometimes lit and provides a focus for pupils' thoughts. Reflection and thinking time is given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils' response. Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and DVDs (inc YouTube clips).

Daily acts of Collective Worship, take place in the school hall, usually at the beginning of the day for KS2 (9.10am) and at the end of the school day for KS1 (2:40pm) and twice a week these are whole school gatherings.

Records and Assessment

A planning template is provided to support the delivery of effective Collective Worship. Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out by the through:

- Checking that practice matches aims and objectives
- Observation of children's levels of attentiveness and interest
- Feedback from pupil discussion groups
- Feedback from visitors
- Staff evaluations

Equal Opportunities and Multi-culturalism

In accordance with legal requirements, parents have the right to withdraw their children, from acts of Collective Worship on religious grounds. Parents should make their wishes known to the Head Teacher who will have a discussion with the parents before they make their final decision about withdrawal. This discussion is essential to ensure the purpose and nature of inclusive, invitational collective worship is fully understood and appreciated by parents.

A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths represented within the school; Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh. Appreciation and understanding of other religions is encouraged in expressing the vision '*Love one another as I have loved you*'. It is essential that children of all faiths and none in our school feel equally welcome and valued in the daily act of worship and that their individual beliefs are respected and the development of their own spirituality is supported and encouraged.

Role of the Co-ordinator

- To write the school's policy for Collective Worship in consultation with the head teacher and foundation governors
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and use the policy document
- To review the policy on a regular basis
- To plan an overall balanced programme of worship for the year
- To draw up collective worship rotas
- To involve colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship
- To advise on planning, ideas and resources
- To be responsible for ordering, maintaining and displaying resources
- To administer the budget for Collective Worship.
- To monitor and evaluate, with others, Collective Worship in all its forms
- To report to the head teacher and governors
- To arrange INSET for staff
- To keep up to date with recent publications, attend Diocesan courses and disseminate information and feedback to staff
- To liaise with the incumbent, governing body and Diocesan officers on matters relating to Collective Worship

This Policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of Hope Hamilton CE Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors, the Head Teacher and the Collective Worship Co-ordinator in conjunction with all staff two years from the date of ratification (November 2027).