



St Herbert's C of E

Primary and Nursery School

'Learn to love as we love to learn'

Collective Worship Policy

Approved by	
Name:	
Position:	
Signed:	
Date:	January 2024
Review date²:	January 2026

Rationale

Collective worship at St Herbert's CE (VA) Primary and Nursery School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act, 1998.

As the School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, the content of all the daily acts of worship will be in accordance with the Trust Deed of the School i.e. in accordance with the faith and practices of the Church of England. Staff and Governors perceive school worship as an affirmation and celebration of the values and ethos of the school.

Worship Time is at the heart of our school and it is a daily occasion when children and adults reflect and worship together on Christian values, school standards, church calendar events, festivals, teachings of Jesus, the school community and wider world issues.

Collective Worship is inclusive, reflective, creative, encompassing and celebratory. Collective Worship allows children opportunities to experience awe and wonder. All worships involve the children and allow them to take an active role in the nature of the experience.

During a week children experience a variety of groupings and settings as well as a variety of music, prayers, responses, the school creed and blessing. The common focus throughout all Collective Worships is our Worship table which always holds a candle, cross and a bible.

Aims

- To provide opportunities for students and staff to explore and celebrate the Christian values on which the school is based.
- To introduce children to a variety of forms of worship. Seeking to reflect the rich diversity of experience in the Anglican (and other Christian) traditions locally and around the world.
- To enable children and adults to approach the "threshold of worship" and particularly to support expressions of reverence, awe, wonder, gratitude, joy, serenity, contrition, expectation, assurance, respect etc.
- To enable pupils to explore the use of silence for stilling, reflection and, as appropriate, prayer.
- To heighten pupils' awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the responses that have been made to these by people of faith.
- To affirm the value and special gifts and status that Christians believe each person has in the sight of God.

Practicalities:

During a week children experience a variety of groupings and settings as well as a variety of music, prayers, responses, the school prayer, the Lord's Prayer and blessings.

The whole school including members of staff, meets together in the hall every Monday and Wednesday for Whole School Worship, which usually lasts approximately 15 minutes. Worship is led by either the Head Teacher or visiting clergy from the Churches in Keswick (Crosthwaite, St John's, King's Church, Methodist and Roman Catholic).

On the remaining three days of the week, we hold a class worship, led entirely by the children in each class, a Key Stage Worship, led by the teaching staff on a rota basis and a Celebration Worship, celebrating the successes across the school during the week.

Parents, Governors and members of the church and local community often attend collective worship at special festivals (Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Leavers in July).

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. Members of charitable organisations and local support groups offer their expertise to the school. We also have frequent Worships led by NISCU and throughout the year enjoy the Christian puppetry team.

At Christmas our Year 3 and 4 children lead a Christmas Nativity service. At Easter, our Year 5's lead a service at St John's and at the end of the school year, we hold a Year 6 leavers service at Crosthwaite Church. During these worships, they are led by the pupils, governors, clergy and staff. At other times, including Mothering Sunday and Harvest, we hold services in school for parents as well as pupils.

On appropriate occasions we use the Prayer Garden, dedicated in 2015 by Bishop James, or the Stone Circle in the school grounds for class or group worship and set up reflection activities for the pupils.

Our Worship monitors are actively involved in the worship, selecting hymns, setting up the area for worship, operating the computer and projector and generally ensuring an air of reverence throughout the worship time.

We also have Worship Leaders, they are role models for the other pupils. They record children's reflections during worship. Each half term, they plan and lead the final Monday worship of the half term on the Christian Value for the half term. Classes lead worship in class per week. Children in Key Stage 2 plan and deliver their weekly worship. In Early Years and Key Stage 1, teachers support this weekly worship and include children in the delivery of worship. Through our half-termly planning we are providing more opportunities for the children to take a leading role in planning, delivering and evaluating Collective Worship, in year groups, working groups or individual classes. We use familiar traditional prayers, greetings and responses so that our children feel comfortable, familiar and at home when they attend church.

Resources

The school budget includes a sum of £100 to be used annually for resourcing collective worship. Visual aids (artefacts, posters and books) are purchased regularly and are catalogued and stored in the resources room.

Content and Approach

A plan for the full school year is designed by the Head and clergy team and is then shared with all the Collective Worship leaders involved including local clergy, school staff, pupils and governors. The plan is based on half term themes (linked to the Church calendar and our school values and explicitly connected to Biblical references) which are broken down into weekly sub themes. Our whole school values or Wisdom, Hope and Aspiration, Community and Dignity are explored in greater detail and links are made with other relevant Christian Values to develop a greater understanding of our core values. These are outlined in our Collective Worship overview. We introduce children to a range of music genres through our Composer of the Half Term and children listen to a different piece of music when coming into worship daily.

It will include:

- links to the Church year
- a focus on school values
- Presentation of Bible stories
- Opportunities for children's participation
- Links to the school curriculum
- Links to learning from other religions
- A variety of stimuli and media, including the creative arts
- Opportunities to revisit different themes progressively and developmentally

All worship leaders are required to:

- respect the life choices of children and other participants particularly being sensitive to those of the Christian faith, or of other faiths or with no faith.
- use the collective worship plan unless there are special circumstances which make this inappropriate
- ensure that their worship addresses the needs, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children and uses a variety of aesthetic materials and other stimuli and active learning styles
- provide opportunities for participation by the children, including regular opportunities for them to lead parts of worship children to lead in worship
- include opportunities for appropriate prayer and reflection
- complete a brief record of their worship with suggestions, as appropriate for improvements

Provision for Early Years

Opportunities are provided for regular Worship or quiet reflection, including Godly Play and the Jack in the box publication which provides a multisensory worship time during Group Time. Early Years pupils join in whole school worship once they are settled in school.

Withdrawals

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Should any parent make such a request, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of collective worship are encouraged to contact the head

teacher to discuss this. The headteacher will report to the governors the numbers (but not the names) of any children who are withdrawn and the arrangements that have been made for their supervision.

Evaluation and Review

The Governor with oversight of collective worship will be appointed annually and will meet at least each term with the worship coordinator (Head Teacher) to monitor:

- The implementation of this policy
- The ongoing development of the planning
- The records for worship
- The issues relating to collective worship in the school development plan (SIP)

Each year these governors seek the views of stakeholders to evaluate the impact of worship and to identify ideas for future development. This may be achieved through:

- Meetings with the school council
- Informal conversations with parents
- The parents questionnaire
- Seeking the views of staff and visiting worship leaders
- Worship evaluation forms completed by children or by meeting with children to discuss their thoughts

Foundation governors also participate in collective worship regularly. Records are kept to ensure acts of worship are compatible with the requirements of this policy. Pupils have opportunities to evaluate their own and others' collective worship and staff and governors frequently review all kinds of worship across the school.

Invited visitors have a clear brief and are given guidelines on the school's pattern of worship in advance of their visit. Those from outside the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of this Policy.

Worship is a regular agenda item for the School Council.

This Policy will be reviewed every two years by the Governors, Pupils and Staff.