

Collective Worship Policy



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INTRODUCTION

Our Collective Worship Policy has been devised using guidance from 'Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring', a guidance document from the Church of England Education Office.

We aim for Collective Worship at Headlands CE (C) JIN School to be 'Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring'. As Church of England schools, we are committed to offering high quality collective worship and we recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community, as well as a way to further express our Christian vision. We view Collective Worship in our school as a vital part of the school day and as such the structure, planning, evaluation, participation and collaboration of worship have a high profile. Collective worship is a part of our school's contribution to promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every child. It is a time to celebrate the worth and value of every single person in the school community.

We see Collective Worship as the unique heartbeat of the school. It is a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God. Collective Worship in our schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity provide a vital opportunity for all pupils to gain a rich experience and understanding of Christianity. Our approach to Collective Worship is to ensure that we meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring

Inclusive - Our worship is collective as it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others, and for some, to God. Many pupils and staff in our schools come from homes of different faith backgrounds, as well as of no faith background. Also, many pupils will be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Collective Worship offers pupils the opportunity to think and ask questions as well as the space to reflect, consider, and participate and to stand back. We will ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

It is of vital importance to us that collective worship is not 'done to', but 'done with' our pupils. We recognise that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. In our school, inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship.

Invitational - Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. Worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable.

Pupils and adults should always be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer will always be accompanied by the option to reflect. Music and liturgies used in our Collective Worship will reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship.

Inspiring - Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. It will enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and

why we do what we do. It will motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational Collective Worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Collective Worship at Headlands CE (C) JIN School aims to do the following;

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins our shared values. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as honesty, gratitude, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, perseverance, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic success.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encouraging the teaching of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through the experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection as well as through the varied liturgical and the traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

- The 1998 Education Reform Act required that all registered pupils attending maintained School should take part in daily Collective Worship.
- In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England
- The Headteacher should ensure that a record is kept of Collective Worship. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of Collective Worship.

RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL

At Headlands CE (C) JIN School we seek to be inclusive, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. We expect that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All staff, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Headlands CE (C) JIN School.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

ORGANISATION AND PLANNING

An act of worship is held every day. This takes different forms, such as whole school, individual class or key stage. It takes place in the school hall, classrooms or in Christ Church on special occasions. Worship may be led by senior leaders, visitors, Church

representatives, teachers or pupils. It allows adults and pupils to create a space for an encounter with faith in God. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the larger questions of meaning and purpose. Pupils and adults can expect the school's collective worship practices to provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words and actions which will give the community a language upon which it can draw, in times of joy and grief. These actions and experiences are the key to fostering a sense of fellowship and cohesion in our school community, as well as further strengthening our Christian value of Koinonia.

Throughout the year, we will meet to celebrate and mark certain seasons in the Church calendar; such as Lent and Advent. Pupils and adults will encounter the practice of regular prayer and worship as a normal part of life of the school. These activities will help provide a rhythm and stillness as a pattern of community life. Parents, pupils and adults can expect worship in our school to follow a recognisable structure. Worship in our schools follows a recognisable pattern that will help focus worship. This helps to give organisation and clarity to the unfolding of that idea.

Weekly Plan for Collective Worship	
Monday	Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Collective Worship led by Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	KS1 Collective Worship led by Phase Leaders or Clergy KS2 Class Acts of Worship or Key Stage Worship led by Clergy
Wednesday	Whole school Collective Worship through singing
Thursday	KS2 Collective Worship led by Phase Leaders KS1 Class Acts of Worship
Friday	Celebration Collective Worship usually led by Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

Physical surroundings are important in creating the right atmosphere for school acts of worship. The use of a focal point helps in creating a special place with the focal point being a cross, the bible and 3 candles. The 3 candles represent God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Children sit in a semi-circle during key stage collective worship.

We take the half-termly theme of our Christian Value and thread this through our theme. These themes tie together traditions of the Christian faith, Bible stories and wider school PSHE /RSE themes. We use Roots and Fruits to support our whole school Collective Worship. Sessions, may on occasions, be planned to respond to events within school, or to a particular news item as it arises.

We are developing a prayer tree where children, staff, visitors and other members of our community can leave prayers. Members of staff may include these prayers in the daily acts of Collective Worship. The Collective Worship co-ordinator will monitor the prayer tree and will take the necessary action if children leave prayers that cause concern. Collective Worship and Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

The staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship. Our school worship is 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 and mental ability - 'every child of God matters everywhere'.

School Liturgy

Gathering and Welcome - Entry in silence to music, welcome and reminder that this is a special time to be together as a community. Sharing of 'the peace'. As we light the candles we will say the Trinity Prayer.

Engaging and Learning - Story telling, talk or discussion with a clear focus to an aspect of the theme.

Responding and Reflecting - An opportunity to reflect on how Collective Worship might influence their day to day lives. Collective singing of a hymn. Prayer with the invitational words

'I am now going to say a prayer, If you would like to make it your prayer you can join me and say amen at the end'.

Sending

As the candles are extinguished. Sending words and response. Children to lead out in silence to music encouraging reflection as the children leave the hall.

Special Worship

There are also special celebrations during the year, where a specified class or whole school leads the collective worship. These are held in the Church where possible or school hall and parents are invited.

- Some acts of worship involve the wider community where an outside speaker comes to highlight projects, needs and activities in which we may take part. Any outside agencies invited into school to facilitate worship will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and the school's vision. They should be supported and monitored as part of the school's systems for the evaluation of the impact of worship.
- The principles of collective worship are extended through children saying a prayer at lunchtime and at the end of the day from their class prayer books.
- Throughout the year, parents and friends of the school from our local community are invited to special celebrations such as Service of Blessing, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Service, Christmas Carol Service, Easter and School Leavers Assembly. This is a practical demonstration of the way home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

EVALUATING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Evaluation strategies currently used for assessing the outcomes of collective worship are:
Observation of the children's attentiveness and level of interest demonstrated.

- Collective worship evaluations completed by pupils, staff and visitors.
- Classroom feedback from pupils, staff and parents' comments.
- Observations of the children's general behaviour in and around school and to one another.
- Feedback via Collective Worship Committee, School Council and other pupil voice mechanisms.

All governors are tasked with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation and impact of collective worship policy and practice.