



HORBURY BRIDGE CE J&I ACADEMY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Value Statement

We recognise that not all our families have a faith or that their faith may not be a Christian one. Part of our responsibility as a church school is to encourage and support those of any faith and also to enable children to develop their own informed viewpoints about personal faith. Collective Worship is an essential part of all children's spiritual and moral development. Whilst its emphasis is Christian, all faith groups can benefit from Collective Worship. Collective Worship recognises our commitment to fulfilling our foundation as a church school and our Ethos Statement.

ETHOS STATEMENT

Our Instrument of Government is a legal document which sets out how the school will be governed. All Church of England schools have an Ethos Statement within this instrument which defines them as Church schools:

“Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.”

AIMS

- To offer the school community the opportunity to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship; to widen and enhance the experience of those of faith and those of no faith and to allow them to make their own response.
- To offer inclusive, Christian based worship recognising the presence of God.
- To enable children and staff to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life.
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- To develop a Christian sense of ‘community’ within and beyond the school.
- To celebrate special occasions, achievements and special events in relation to individuals within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community.
- To explore and celebrate difference and diversity.



CHRISTIAN VALUES EDUCATION

Our daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. The worship of the school is based on our Christian Values which permeate the ethos of the school. Through this, we promote the importance of living by our Christian Values.

We blend Christian teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop their whole character and to prepare them for being responsible global citizens. We have chosen 12 values which are revisited in a 2 year cycle so that children can meet them at different levels of maturity and meaning throughout their time in school. (See Appendix 1). Consultation with children and adults has shown that they believe all these values are interlinked and important so we do not place any greater emphasis on one than another.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9(3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the act of collective worship either partially or wholly and any parent wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher.
- Staff also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in collective worship. However, a requirement of job descriptions at our school, is 'to uphold the Christian character of the school'. As such, staff are appointed with the expectation that they will be willing to take part in and regularly lead acts of collective worship.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP/ASSEMBLY

- We fully recognise the difference between the terms used generally in schools as 'Assembly' and 'Collective Worship' and the distinct nature and difference of these activities.
- At Horbury Bridge, all activities referred to as 'Assembly' are solely acts of collective worship and do not take place within a wider activity. The term 'Assembly' is used exclusively for acts of collective worship. In this way, our worship time is not misinterpreted as being corporate worship. We continue to review the appropriateness of this vocabulary.
- We use the term 'Service' for those acts of worship which mark particular aspects of the school and church year, or which are led jointly by school and the church - Harvest, Christingle, Easter, Leavers'
- **Worship** means 'giving worth to God'. It is based on personal experience and belief. We can never make anyone worship because it is an attitude of the heart focused on God; in the school situation we provide a setting where people may worship God if they so wish.
- **Corporate** worship takes place in churches and within religions where a group of people gather together with shared beliefs with the intention of sharing worship.
- **Collective** worship in schools refers to the gathering together of a school group or groups for worship which recognises that the school community is a collection of people of differing backgrounds and beliefs. In collective worship children and adults will be responding to the worship in different ways and at different levels; it does not pre-suppose shared beliefs, and should not seek uniform responses. Collective Worship provides opportunities for children to respond as individuals and to offer worship to God without losing sight of their different beliefs and points of view and developmental ages.



ORGANISATION

- **Monday:** 'Singing Assemblies' are acts of worship which are a framework for reflection and understanding of the message of a group of hymns or a specific hymn for example, related to a specific time in the church year or to the value for that half term. Children read prayers from their class reflection areas.
- **Tuesday:** 'Whole School Assembly' led by the Headteacher/Senior Leaders focus on the value for the half term
- **Wednesday:** 'Whoosh Worship' –a Bible story planned and led by the children and presented in 3 House Teams in classrooms
Or: Key Stage Assembly-led by staff from that Key Stage based on a SEAL or other theme
- **Thursday:** 'Church Assembly' in St John's Church; led by the parish priest, Father Brian, or Father Andreas or lay reader Margaret Holmes
- **Friday:** 'Achievements Assemblies' are whole school acts of worship which focus on valuing the uniqueness of each individual and allow for personal reflection on their contribution to the school family and its values. Whilst it is not part of the requirement for Foundation Stage children to be present, Reception children take part in this assembly.

In addition to the Value for the half term, worship may also be based on the Church Year and take account of special events and days. Key Stage Assemblies are based on themes which take place over a number of weeks or are based on SEAL themes. (See Appendix 2 for starting points/possible themes)

Visitors

- Regular visitors from other churches lead collective worship which broadens the children's experience of Christian based worship. These currently include Hand To Mouth Ministries, Philip Kaye from The Gospel Hall, Jonathan Robinson from The New Life Christian Centre
- Visiting leaders follow the same structure of collective worship as far as is appropriate to their style of presentation.

Pupil Led Worship

- In 'Whoosh Worship', children are responsible for planning and presenting the worship in their House Teams. This is based on a Bible story which encourages interactive story telling.
- Children from Key Stage 2 plan and organise whole school 'Pupil Led Assemblies'. This may be based on the current value or other significant event or theme.

Children are also able to take an active part in worship through:

- Setting up the worship space
- Leading the opening and closing of worship
- Leading singing
- Leading prayers
- Reading a Bible passage
- Reading/acting out a story



STRUCTURE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The assembly is structured to give it a clear and recognisable form similar to a simple church worship.

Setting the scene-making the worship space special: Children set up the worship space each day

In the hall or church:

- The table has a white cloth overlaid with a cloth of seasonal colours reflecting the Anglican church year as a visual link to the worship of the church
- A cross and candle are displayed on the table as a focus and symbol
- Other items may be used as a focus or to support the theme
- The screen display links to the current value

Class based worship:

- A candle/class cross/objects are used as a focus and to indicate that this worship space is special too

Welcoming and creating an atmosphere

- A range of music is played to support the atmosphere. Children often sing as they enter.
- A child introduces the colour of the season
- A greeting is given to acknowledge we are coming together as a community to worship God. A child plays the greeting on the xylophone to which everyone responds

Engaging

- This is presented in a style which is appropriate and accessible to the age and backgrounds of the children. It may include storytelling, drama, music, video, photos, questions and involvement of children as a means of stimulating and engaging children.
- Children should be able to make links with the theme and their own experiences
- A multi-cultural dimension may be added through the use of stories, prayers and songs from the worldwide Church.

Responding

Following engagement, we respond as a community and as individuals.

- A candle is lit to mark the time of personal reflection and stillness.
- Children may close their eyes or use the candle, a picture or an object as a focus for their reflection.
- The reflection will be guided and focused as well as allowing time for personal reflection.
- Music may be used to create an atmosphere of calm reflection.
- Children may be invited to pray; this may include set prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer or prayers with responses, or children's own prayers.
- Singing of a hymn/song is used to complement the theme

Concluding/Sending

- The worship candle is extinguished
- Class 3 children sing the Peace, with the rest of school singing the response
- Other rituals may be used such as singing whilst leaving, exiting to music, using a said or sung blessing



CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our collective worship is Christian and includes elements taken from the Church of England. Children are introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. This takes place through the use of Christian elements of worship, including:

- Using Christian symbols and reflecting on their meaning;
- Observing the cycle of the Church year-Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints days and the use of liturgical colours to mark these times;
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection;
- Learning and saying traditional prayers from a number of sources, including the Lord's Prayer;
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and other Christian based values songs both traditional and modern;
- Using the Bible, either as a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories;
- Use of Anglican elements such as links with the worship in the parish, using Anglican greetings and responses.

The Anglican Church is a worldwide church and so appropriate materials from other Christian churches may be used as well as inviting visitors from other churches to lead collective worship. Although our worship reflects our Christian belief and values, we are committed to respecting other faiths and cultures.

REFLECTION AREAS

- Collective Worship is used to introduce and explore themes and values which are then a focus for reflection through interactive areas in classes which are accessible and visible to all children. The worship and reflection areas together provide an opportunity for children to: engage in reflection on feelings, experiences, attitudes and beliefs; develop empathy; express their own beliefs and values and respond to value based ideas and questions; draw meaning from their experiences and make links between what they have experienced and their own practice. The prayers and thoughts written by the children in response to the areas, may be shared in assemblies.

PLANNING AND EVALUATION OF WORSHIP

- It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governing Body to ensure that a daily act of Collective Worship takes place.
- Our Foundation governor takes part in weekly collective worship with the school, so monitoring the worship which takes place
- Pupil interviews are used to evaluate the children's perceptions of collective worship and to take account of their views in developing and improving the experience of and impact of worship.
- The children's responses to interactive reflection areas in classrooms are used to evaluate the impact of the stimulus worship.
- Teachers refer to worship themes and messages in their daily practice in and out of the classroom and informally evaluate its impact through children's responsiveness and comments.
- All members of staff who lead collective worship are responsible for planning and recording the themes of these. The Headteacher maintains records to provide an overview of the themes and content of collective worship to ensure a variety and balance in these. (see Appendix 3)



APPENDIX 1

Cycle of Christian Values themes: A

2012/13, 2014/15

Term	Months	SEAL theme	School & church events	Value	Vision	Bible story/bible quotes
1a	Sept, Oct	New Beginnings	New school year, Michelmas Harvest Holy Cross day	Community	We look after each other in our global and school family	Matthew 25:31-46 http://bg4.me/pFgyuX
2a	Nov, Dec	Getting on and falling out (+anti bullying)	Anti bullying day Remembrance day Children in Need All Saints day Christ the King School Anniversary Advent/Christmas	Humility	We accept differences, we put others before ourselves	http://bit.ly/tRcpLt
3a	Jan, Feb	Going for goals	Epiphany Candlemas Shrove Tuesday Ash Wednesday Lent	Thankfulness	We value each other and all we have	The Song of the Sea – Exodus 15:1-19 Thankfulness By Daniel – Daniel 2:23 A Thankful Leper Luke 17:11-19
4a	March April	Good to be me	Fairtrade Fortnight Book Week Lady Day Palm Sunday Easter	Forgiveness/compassion	We learn from everything/ We think of the difficulties others face	The conversion of Saul (Acts 9. 1-19)
5a	May,	Relationships	SATs Eco Day Ascension Whit/Pentecost	Trust	We help each other to be safe	http://bit.ly/zlzWWL
6a	June, July	Changes	Health week Leavers	Hope	We never give up	http://bit.ly/uJq2EN



Cycle of Christian Values themes: B

2013/14, 2015/16

Term	Months	SEAL theme	School & church events	Value	Vision	Bible story/bible quotes
1b	Sept, Oct	New Beginnings	New school year, Michaelmas Harvest Holy Cross day	Respect/ Reverence (for all God's World)	We all matter	Creation story (Genesis 1)
2b	Nov, Dec	Getting on and falling out (+anti bullying)	Anti-bullying day Remembrance day Children in Need All Saints day School Anniversary Christ the King Advent/Christmas	Peace	We help each other to stay safe	http://bit.ly/nS2E1s
3b	Jan, Feb	Going for goals	Shrove Tuesday Ash Wednesday Lent	Perseverance		
4b	March April	Good to be me	Fairtrade Fortnight Book Week Lady Day Palm Sunday Easter	Justice	We try to be fair	(Integrity) http://bit.ly/oCoaGY
5b	May,	Relationships	SATs Eco Day Ascension Whit/Pentecost	Friendship	We value each other	http://bit.ly/mympGZ
6b	June, July	Changes	Health week Leavers	Courage	We try our hardest	Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel 3) Daniel in the Lion's den (Daniel 6 , 1-23)



APPENDIX 2

ADDITIONAL THEMES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Potential themes or starting points for the focus of Collective Worship include:

Attitudes	Love
Beginnings and endings	Me
Being a Christian	Memories
Bible stories	Messages
Caring-for others/God's world	Names/titles of God
Changes	Neighbours
Charities	New and old
Choices	New life
Christian Festivals	Parables
Christians around the world	People around the world
Compassion	Poems/books
Communication	Prayers
Contrasts (life/death, happy/sad)	Psalms
Courage	Problems and possibilities
Creation	Proverbs
Environment	Relationships
Equality/inclusion	Relationship with God
Everyday happenings	Rules and laws
Fairness	Saints and key figures
Faith in action	Seasons
Family	Senses
Feelings	Special days
Festivals of different faiths	Special people
Food	Special things
Forgiveness	Stories from history
Freedom	Stories from sacred texts
Friendship	Stories Jesus told
Fruits of the Spirit	Stories with morals/meanings
Gifts	Symbols
Goals	Talents/gifts
God	Talking and listening
Holy Spirit	Teamwork
Hope	Thanks and please
Important moments	The Bible
Jesus	Truthfulness
Justice/injustice	Thoughts
Leaders	Trust and obedience
Letters from the New Testament	Values
Life	War/Peace
Light	Work/achievement
Looking forward/looking back	Worshipping

This is not an exhaustive or exclusive list



APPENDIX 3: RECORDS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship Theme:

Term:

Monday				
	Singing Assemblies	Meaning and words of these songs explored :		
Tuesday	Focus	Content Eg Approaches, content, questions, key points and messages	Prayer/reflection Music	Children's responses: Impact (effectiveness)
Thursday	Focus	Content Eg Approaches, content, questions, key points and messages	Prayer/reflection Music	Children's responses: Impact (effectiveness)
Visitors	Focus	Content Eg Approaches, content, questions, key points and messages	Prayer/reflection Music	Children's responses: Impact (effectiveness)