

HINTON ST GEORGE CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Let Your Light Shine'



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Date Adopted: February 2023
Frequency of Review: Every two years
Next Review Date: February 2025

Signed: _____
on behalf of Governing Body

Hinton St George CE Primary School

This Policy should be taken and used as part of Hinton St George Church of England School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, Instrument of Government aims and values as a Church of England School.

This Policy statement has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the headteacher, and will be reviewed at the date given on the cover page.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

'Let your Light Shine' (Matthew 5:16)

'In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven'.

We are a family school at the heart of the community, providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian values, belief, and practice. We aim to ensure that children flourish and leave the school fully equipped to go out and shine as lights in the world!

ETHOS STATEMENT

The Christian foundation of the school ensures that the spiritual development of the children and Christian values have a particular emphasis within the whole life of the school. In accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level, we aim to develop within our children not only an awareness of self and sensitivity to others, but also the acquisition of a set of moral values and the confidence to make moral judgements and develop habits of self-discipline and acceptable behaviour. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

BACKGROUND

A daily act of Collective Worship is a legal requirement in all schools. This Collective Worship Policy has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the headteacher and teaching staff and we have expressed our commitment through our school ethos and vision (see above).

OUR POLICY

- This policy takes account of worship guidelines published by The Diocese of Bath and Wells.
- Worship at our school is 'broad and balanced in its use of mainly Christian material including, when appropriate, aspects of the Anglican tradition.' We make good use of the local church in addition to our school hall and classrooms for worship.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Acts of Collective worship will:

- Establish, affirm and celebrate the common and shared values of the school.
- Nurture the identity and nature of the school as a community.
- Develop positive attitudes.
- Provide an opportunity to worship God.
- Enable children to come to terms with their own beliefs, values and commitments, and with those of others.
- Promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- The governing body has overall responsibility of the Collective Worship Policy. Any issues arising from the schools SIAMS report (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools), identified from parental questionnaires or through monitoring procedures from the R.E subject leader are addressed through action points in the school development plan or the subject leadership plan.
- Collective Worship is managed by the headteacher, with support from the Rector, and a member of the Governing Body, who will review the policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

ORGANISATION

We developed our collective worship plans following a community survey to select six core values for our school (see below). Each term one of the six values will be explored/taught explicitly by school staff and the rectors. In addition, the 'Roots and Fruits' schemes have been adopted as recommended by the diocese. Individual staff members and the Rector, in consultation with the Headteacher, are responsible for the day to day organising of collective worship which may include inviting visitors to attend. The school liaises and seeks support from the diocesan education department. Equal opportunities, special needs issues and racial equality issues are acknowledged in our collective worship themes, PSHE, and R.E. teaching.

Our Six Core Christian Values

Thankfulness
Compassion
Hope/Aspiration
Perseverance
Friendship
Respect

DELIVERY OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship takes place daily and is delivered by the headteacher, teachers, children, the local church team as well as visiting speakers. The majority of the Acts of Collective Worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. The venues for worship include the hall, classrooms and St George's Church. Worship is usually organised for the whole-school but there are also occasions for worship in individual classrooms. The school visits St George's Church in Hinton St George at least monthly for worship or for a service to commemorate special events in the religious calendar (e.g. Harvest, Easter). The Act of Collective Worship will be open to the whole school community at the discretion of the Headteacher. Every child will take part in the Act of Collective Worship unless withdrawn by his/her parents/guardians.

Collective worship should not be confused with 'Assembly' when only information is given out, good work celebrated or behaviour is discussed. Collective Worship is organised by the Collective worship co-ordinator, Charlotte Hall. She liaises with staff, clergy and other visitors.

Our planning ensures that different Christian concepts are delivered weekly. Evaluations/reflections are completed by professionals and in consultation with children through a weekly reflection slot and the School Council. Collective Worship is also discussed at relevant INSETS and staff meetings. The Governors will monitor Collective worship periodically and liaise with the subject co-ordinators.

ROLE OF THE COLLECTIVE WORSHIP CO-ORDINATOR

- The Collective Worship co-ordinator has the responsibility to keep up to date with subject development and share expertise with colleagues.
- The Collective Worship co-ordinator will work in conjunction with the staff and Clergy teams to support Collective Worship in our school.
- This policy will be reviewed as required or biennially by the co-ordinator. It is subject to review in accordance with school development planning.

PARENTAL RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

Families who send their children to this school are in the main Christian, but we do have some children from religions other than Christianity as well as those with no formal church links or religious beliefs. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and Religious Education. The school remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from Collective Worship or R.E, unless the child is lawfully receiving R.E or taking part in Collective Worship elsewhere.

Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. To avoid misunderstanding the Headteacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:-

- The religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught.
- The practical implications of withdrawal (use of spare room -supervised by teaching assistants).
- The circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents' wishes.

In conclusion, we believe that Collective Worship at Hinton St George Church of England VC Primary School is central to the life and well being of the school. The school serves its community by providing high quality educational provision within the context of Christian belief and practice. Collective Worship encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values, striving to 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.